

leftwords

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STRINGBAND



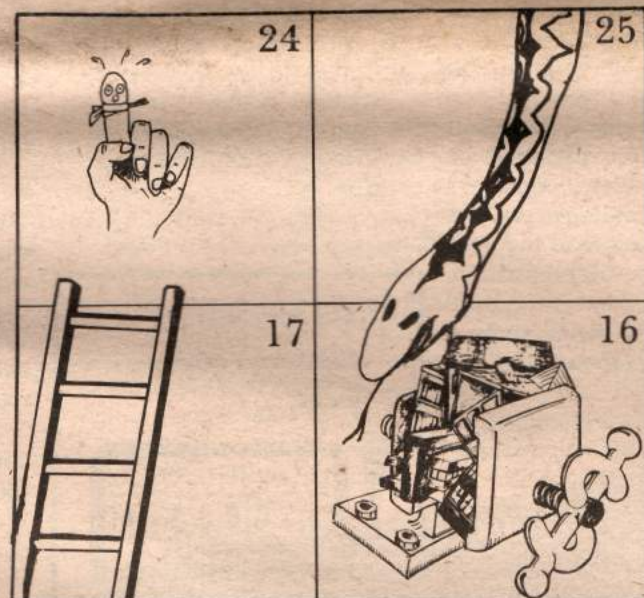
THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

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LIP SERVICE

Thinking The Unthinkable

by Laurie Gourlay

"Once we talk about disarmament, we're entering the power complex...it's a philosophical question, we're not just dealing with facts and quantity." So spoke Henry Elder, a member of the cleanup crew after the A-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and now Prof. Emeritus at U.B.C.

This was the first time Mr. Elder had been able to speak about the devastation he witnessed. His remarks came at the end of a day-long conference in Victoria. "Thinking the Unthinkable" invited military

Claiming that the USSR "believes they can fight a nuclear war...and win it," Lt. Gen. Lane cited emotion and naivete as the reasons people are concerned about the arms race.

and non-military experts to think about the possibilities and aftermath of a nuclear war.

This conference, held at the University of Victoria on Saturday, November 22nd, was the first of its kind in Western Canada and drew about 500 people. Sponsored by the World Federalists, it encouraged an active dialogue between the audience and guest speakers, revealing many complex repercussions as the world steps up its arms production.

Lieut. General R. Lane, retired from NORAD, spoke in the morning about the military's belief in the need for continuing development and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. Claiming that the USSR "believes they can fight a nuclear war...and win it", Lt. Gen. Lane cited emotion and naivete as the reasons people are concerned about the arms race. Believing that there is presently "an enormous need to re-equip the armed forces", he predicted a very serious situation in detente by the year 1985.

Outnumbered by an audience and panel largely in favour of steps towards disarmament, Lt. Gen. Lane tried unsuccessfully throughout the day to defend his position.

Speaker Murray Thompson of Project Ploughshares described the arms race as the "biggest obstacle to development in the world" and asked, "what are we preparing ourselves for?" Mr. Thompson analyzed the classic argument centering on the number of missiles that the U.S. and the USSR have stockpiled, concluding that it was a poor comparison since the U.S. has superior

targeting mechanisms, more strategic site locations, and less vulnerability to a first-strike attack.

Mr. Thompson claimed further that the U.S. government is purposely underestimating their capabilities, and charged that information supporting this contention was being withheld from the public because of embarrassing mistakes admitted in research calculations by the CIA.

James Stark, who is working to convince the U.N. to hold a series of world referenda on disarmament, spoke of the recent poll by the Dept. of National Defence which indicated that a majority of Canadians believe there will be another war within the decade. "If we're at war, it's because the war was thrust upon us" he said, adding that nuclear war will be over in less than an hour, "hardly enough time to say a rosary, let alone conscript anyone." Noting the U.S. election results, he spoke further about his fear of Reagan and his vice-president, George Bush, who believe they can fight and win a nuclear war. "The rest of human history may be a couple of decades, and not a millennium," said Stark, commenting on the faith governments and the military have that fear of 'Mutually Assured Destruction' (MAD) will avoid nuclear war.

The case defending disarmament as a means for national security was argued from many positions throughout the day.

Michael Wallace, professor of Political Science at U.B.C., said that, "No one can expect to escape harm in a nuclear war...when they think they can, that is the threat to deterrence."

ARMS SPENDING

World military expenditure is now running at almost \$1 million a minute...



Wallace added, "It's going to be difficult, it's going to be a long haul...but it can be won...slavery used to be an accepted belief."

Wallace went on to describe the situation should a nuclear war occur, detailing tidal waves, fire storms, "enormous secondary fallout", chaos, transportation disruption, critical specialists killed leading to system failures, mass depression, "contamination and disorder, food shortage leading to looting, and a prediction that

AMERICAN CHALLENGES IN THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND SOVIET RESPONSES

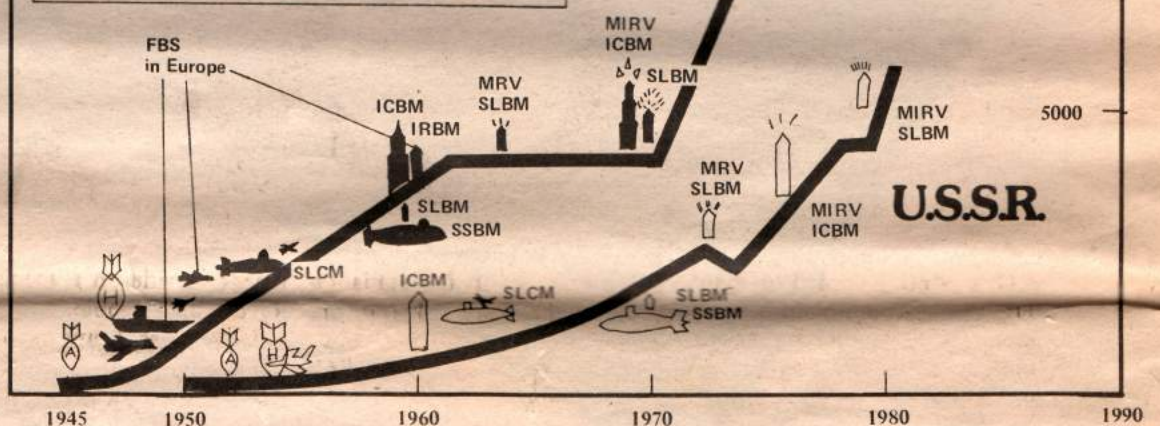
TOTAL APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF US - USSR STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Years	1946 ^(*)	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
US	40	80	120	230	400	550	700	1000	1200	1600	2100	2600
USSR										40	60	90

Years	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
US	3000	3200	3200	3600	3900	3900	4200	4200	4000	4000	4000	4000
USSR	110	175	200	240	300	400	500	600	640	800	1100	1400

Years	1970 ^(**)	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
US	4000	4700	5700	6800	7650	8500	8500	8500	9000	9200	9200
USSR	1800	2100	2500	2200	2500	2800	3300	4000	4000	5000	6000

FBS - Forward Based Systems
 SLCM - Submarine-Launched Cruise Missile
 ICBM - Intercontinental Ballistic Missile
 SLBM - Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile
 IRBM - Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile
 MRV - Multiple Reentry Vehicle
 MIRV - Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle
 ALCM - Air Launched Cruise Missile
 GLCM - Ground Launched Cruise Missile
 SSBN - Nuclear-Powered Ballistic Missile Submarine



we would revert to pre-industrial society after a major population die-off."

In black humour the next speaker, Robert Woollard of the B.C. Medical Association, reassured the audience that "I and my four colleagues in Clearwater, and our 13-bed hospital will be at the disposal of B.C. in the event of a nuclear war."

Comparing a nuclear explosion to at least the power of the eruption of Mt. St. Helen's, Dr. Woollard pointed out the inadequacies of preparation for such an event since most studies of nuclear war account only for the basic immediate blast. Removing false hopes he stated that, "Blast shelters are of no help from fire storms that will result", and that, "Those who escape the immediate blast will suffer from other exposure to heat and radiation." He also predicted that as far as 160 miles downwind of such an explosion will see 90 per cent of the people receiving a fatal radiation dose.

According to Dr. Woollard, if only 10 per cent of the U.S. nuclear arsenal is deployed in a "tactical nuclear war" it would probably cause 70 per cent of the ozone layer to be destroyed. Only a 20 per cent destruction of the ozone layer would result in enough ultra-violet rays penetrating the atmosphere that blindness would occur to all

unprotected eyes.

In late afternoon the conference focused on what individuals could do. Lt. Gen. Lane was the first to speak. Stating, "We differ in how we want to achieve

"...Canadians do not lack guilt since it was their exportation of nuclear reactors which accounts for at least one nuclear power in the world (India)."

(peace)," the former NORAD delegate said, "I'm a realist... the U.S.S.R. understands the meaning in arguing from strength," and suggested that we must be in a position to stop the U.S.S.R. from 'blackmailing us'. "We must return to detente...as long as there is talking there will most likely not be shooting," said Lane.

Michael Wallace suggested 'de-coupling' the nuclear issue from other issues of east-west conflict, noting that this idea thereby wasn't as radical as first glance might seem. Mr.

Wallace also noted that Canadians do not lack guilt since it was their exportation of nuclear reactors which accounts for at least one nuclear power in the world (India). Currently Canada spends \$6 billion a year on war preparation and allots only \$100,000 on peace research. The world expenditure on arms amounts to \$500 billion annually.

Gen. Lane re-entered the conversation at this point, perhaps focussing on the real, underlying cause of the arms escalation - the economy. Lane predicted that advocacy of a neutral Canada would have great effects on our economy, lowering our standard of living as the U.S.A. withdraws its industries and finances from the Canadian market in retaliation.

Speaking for the World Federalists, Gillian Minnifield wrapped up the day's proceedings noting the frightening picture that had emerged. "The next war will not be a re-run of World War II...chauvinism, pride, love of honour - no longer stand for reasons for war," said Minnifield. Putting to rest arguments that the goals of disarmament and peace are unattainable idealistic fantasies, Minnifield brought the conference to a close, with the question, "Is it any less insane to produce nuclear arms for a war from which there will be no recovery?"

Sham or promise ?

The year of the disabled

1981 has been proclaimed by the United Nations as the Year of the Disabled. Consequently, the federal Liberal government and the Socreds in Victoria are organizing publicity programs to promote this theme. In this article, David Jaffe analyzes the plight of B.C.'s 240,000 disabled and proposes positive programs which could be enacted at this time.

"The Year of the Disabled may increase people's awareness that the disabled can be useful members of society and that's a good thing," says Tim Louis, spokesperson of the four year old B.C. Coalition of the Disabled.

But like other disabled people, Louis fears that other parts of the federal and provincial governments' publicity about the Year of the Disabled, "could boil down to a lot of public relations and nothing else."

What should be done?

Leonore Frieman, planner with the Panel of the Handicapped for the Social Planning and Review Council of B.C. insists that both Ottawa and the provincial government should amend their Human Rights legislation to outlaw discrimination against handicapped people. Many of B.C.'s blind, crippled or mentally disabled complain bitterly about how landlords, bosses and government bureaucrats ignore, insult and patronize them.

The B.C. Coalition of the Disabled also wants the B.C.

Today, disabled people suffer incredible discrimination. They experience very high rates of unemployment and poverty. Leonore Frieman of SPARC thinks that 45 per cent of the disabled who "could work, are not in the work force at all."

11,000 British Columbians who are blind or physically or mentally disabled are eking out their lives on GAIN's \$398 a month. [Those living with parents or working sisters or brothers get even less.] Yet thousands more, Frieman feels,

to hire the disabled will spend only \$1 million and none of the jobs created will continue into 1982.

Louis and the B.C. Coalition have mounted six demonstrations to force the Urban Transit Authority and the Greater Vancouver and Regional District to improve transportation for the handicapped. "But so far there has been no guarantee that the U.T.A. will buy buses with lifts so that disabled people will be able to use the transit system," says Louis. "Though, thanks to our pressure, it is now easier to

now, where custom buses run around to pick us up."

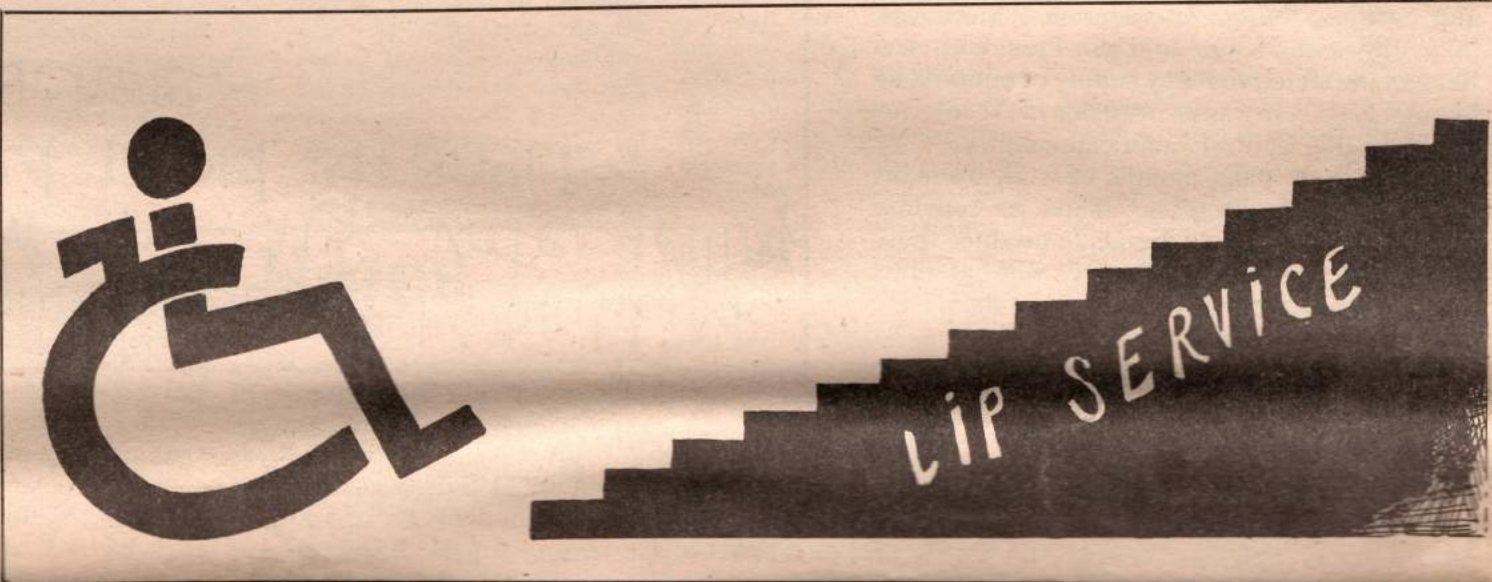
The provincial government could also help some of the disabled pocketbooks' immediately by changing the B.C. Medical Plan to pay for wheelchairs (a motorized wheelchair can go for \$3,000). At present, disabled people on GAIN can only get a wheelchair after being interviewed by someone from the Department of Human Resources or the Canadian Paraplegic Association.

Such a change would also allow disabled people to pur-

ed are caught in a housing crunch as rents soar and vacancy rates plummet to zero. A worker at the Handicapped Resource Centre stated that disabled people are finding it "very hard to get housing and pay high rents."

When a specially designed house for handicapped children opened last August, the house's executive director said at the time, "At least 10 homes like this one in Vancouver could be filled right away."

The Housing Code for public buildings has forced government buildings to be accessible



never turn up in the statistics because they are "living on money from workmen's compensation or ICBC settlements."

Like other people, the B.C. disabled have been hurt by the Socred-inspired fiscal squeeze.

reserve a ride on a special bus for disabled people."

In the past, Louis explains, a physically disabled person who wanted a lift on the small buses for the disabled, had to reserve a ride three days in advance. "Now that waiting period has

chase hearing aides. A hearing aide can cost over \$1,000 and some aides for those really hard of hearing can cost over \$3,000. Special glasses, and crutches should also be paid for if a doctor will prescribe them.

"Saskatchewan and

to the disabled. Yet, unlike some U.S. states, no government law forces private developers to make their buildings accessible to the disabled, or build a certain percentage of their apartments for handicapped people. A worker at the Handicapped Resource Centre figures that skyscrapers or apartments accessible to the handicapped would raise construction costs by only one per cent.

Often, campaigns like the Year of the Disabled are thinly disguised promos for governments and businesses to appear socially concerned. Together with its poor record on issues relating to handicapped people, the nature of the present Socred government in B.C., with its abysmal policy on social issues, makes B.C.'s involvement in this campaign highly suspect.

"Together with its poor record on issues relating to handicapped people, the nature of the present Socred government...makes B.C.'s involvement in this campaign highly suspect."

Human Rights Code to protect the disabled. But the Socred government which initially agreed to extend coverage under the Code to include handicapped people has reneged on its proposed amendments to the Code.

In 1977, then Human Resources Minister Bill Vander Zalm denied an increase to half of the 11,000 disabled who are on GAIN.

During 1981, the federal government's special program

been cut down to one day."

Even so, as Tim Louis points out, "To build a transportation system where one in every four buses is accessible to the handicapped, as our coalition is fighting for, is cheaper in the long run, than what we have

Alberta's medical plans are paying for things that handicapped people need," says a worker at the Canadian Paraplegic Association. "The present B.C. government could do this as well."

Like many others, the disabl-

WHAT NEXT IN CENTRAL AMERICA?

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Ourwords

End Aid, Recognition For Salvador Dictatorship

Recent diplomatic successes by the solidarity movement in Canada regarding Canada's policy towards El Salvador come as a breath of fresh air amidst the smog of Reaganism.

On December 2 of last year, Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs made public statements indicating Canada's opposition to direct foreign intervention in El Salvador. MacGuigan stated that Canada expected that El Salvador's problem could be overcome through the "free expression" of the Salvadorean people and "without foreign intervention". Moreover, in a direct challenge to U.S. President-elect Reagan, he stated that any supply of military aid by outside powers was an intrusion in the internal affairs of this Central American country.

It has taken many months of work by many solidarity groups across Canada to convince MacGuigan and other Liberals to produce these forceful words. But forceful words without direct Canadian action in support of them are meaningless.

Last November, as a result of pressure from solidarity groups, Canada suspended all direct Canadian aid to El Salvador. However, Canadian aid passing through multilateral agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) was not touched. Real non-intervention demands that all aid to El Salvador cease. The Canadian government must now be pressured to halt this aid immediately!

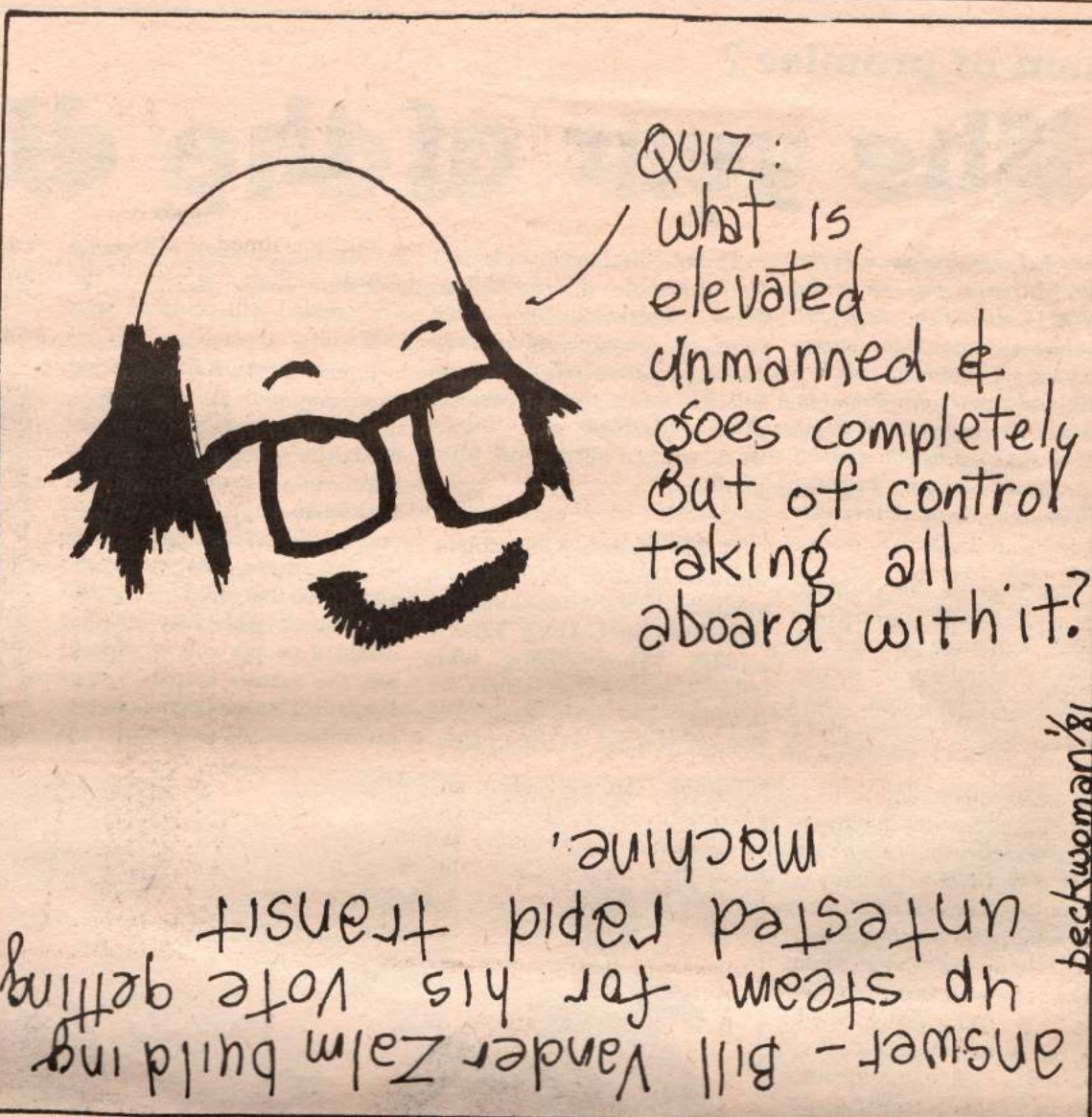
In addition, while strongly opposing direct military aid, Canada has not voiced disapproval with the non-official channels by which aid is shipped. For example, when helicopters recently purchased by Salvadorean "individuals" arrived in San Salvador, they were requisitioned by the military. The 1981 U.S. aid appropriations for El Salvador includes over \$2 million for the maintenance of helicopters which the country

does not officially possess! These types of practices, including schemes where military aid is given to Honduras or Guatemala by the U.S. and then passed on to El Salvador, must be condemned. Concerned individuals and groups in support of the struggle of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), the oppositional leadership in El Salvador, must demand that Canada publicly acknowledge this duplicity and take steps through the U.N. or O.A.S. to stop it.

MacGuigan is aware of the violations of human rights which are occurring daily in El Salvador. On December 3 Canada voted in favour of a U.N. resolution condemning human rights violations in El Salvador. The perpetrators of these crimes are well-known to all of us. Every day peasants

and workers are being killed by the military or its supporters. Canada still recognizes this military dictatorship but this can't continue!

Escalated American intervention in some form will be a reality under Reagan. All Reagan's advisors talk of increased military aid to the Salvadorean dictatorship and none of them discount the possibility of direct American intervention. Because of this, those of us who support the struggle of the Salvadorean people must redouble our efforts to pressure the Canadian government to formally break all diplomatic relations with the governing Salvadorean dictatorship and to monitor and expose all attempts by the U.S., direct or indirect, to interfere with the "free expression" and self-determination of the Salvadorean people.



Yourwords

Leftwords

Leftwords is an all-volunteer newspaper produced jointly by independent socialists, the Socialist Organizing Committee, and socialist-feminists.

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Letters to the editor, manuscripts, subscriptions and donations should be sent to **Leftwords**, Box 69367, Station K, Vancouver, V5K 4W5.

Articles may be reprinted without permission but we would appreciate receiving credit for articles.

The Final Offensive

Urgent Notice!

As **Leftwords** went to press the Revolutionary Democratic Front in El Salvador launched its "final offensive" against the Salvadorean dictatorship. The FDR urgently needs money. Please send as much as you can by bank draft to:

Farid Handal
U.S. dollars, acct. No 202965890
Banca Serfin, Niza 48
Mexico 6, D.F., Mexico

Leftwords:

I am currently recording a series of interviews with men who evaded the draft during World War II for use as a radio show or a printed history.

I have heard that there is a war resisters organization in Vancouver that was started by draft evaders in the 1960's and has been recently revitalized by the American military registration programme.

I am interested in contacting these people or any World War II draft resisters and I am hopeful that you might help me do this.

Thank you for your help.

Richard Payment
1827 W. 12th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.
Vancouver, B.C.
V6J 2E7
733-2322

Leftwords:

Please find enclosed a copy of a

petition circulating across Canada against Trudeau's "patriation" plan. It calls upon mass organizations — trade unions and the NDP particularly — to stand against this anti-labour and anti-democratic act and organize with other popular organizations a March on Ottawa.

This petition started in Quebec at the end of October where it has already got over 6000 signatures and the endorsement of several trade unions.

I am available to give information on this petition and the current campaign. Please inform your readers of the existence of this petition. Thank you for your help.

Rene Denis
on behalf of the Committee
for a March on Ottawa
76 N. Templeton,
Vancouver, B.C.
V5L 3C8
255-3931

WCB stumbling in PCB drama

by Jim Brisebois

Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) has almost become a household word in Canada in recent years. Used as a cooling fluid in electrical equipment, PCB's are well-suited to this task because they do not conduct electricity and they will not breakdown until a temperature of around 2000 degrees Fahrenheit is reached.

It is this chemical stability which makes PCB industrially useful. But it is this same chemical makeup which causes PCB's to be so harmful to human beings and the environment. Since the human body cannot metabolize PCB's, they are stored in fat tissues from where it might take years to be fully excreted from the body.

Information on the effects of low level chronic doses of the chemical is mostly extrapolated from experimentation with animals. It is strongly suspected from these experiments that even low level exposure to PCB's can cause cancer, birth defects and other health problems in humans. In fact, acute health effects from this substance have been observed when large scale poisonings have taken place, such as the recent example of Yusho in Japan.

This is where a current \$250,000 expansion plan by Northwood Pulp and Paper comes in. During the construction phase of this plan, many of the PCB-containing capacitors and transformers which form part of the plant electrical system were disconnected. In October 1980, when the company decided it was time to reconnect the capacitors to the system, the workers refused.

The Canadian Paperworkers' Union had taken a stand against the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in their place of work, a refusal which is interesting for several reasons. At the time of refusal to work there was no 'hard' evidence that any of the workers had been exposed. In fact, the workers refused to do the job on the principle that there was a risk of exposure to a chemical that was deadly and because other

electrical systems which do not use PCB are available.

Northwood Pulp and Paper, for reasons known only to itself, decided to haul the union and the workers before the Labour Relations Board. Many interesting facts came out at the series of hearings (which are still not concluded) over this matter. For instance, the company could replace the PCB with a far less toxic system for less than .1 per cent of the proposed expansion budget. In addition, there is a company in Edmonton, Kinetic Contaminants, which was willing to take the PCB from Northwood. So why would Northwood decide to go to the wall for an expenditure of less than \$250,000 and why would it risk labour disharmony that could so easily be avoided?

drama. Both the company and the WCB claimed that WCB inspections have turned up no evidence of a hazard. But the individual who wrote the in-

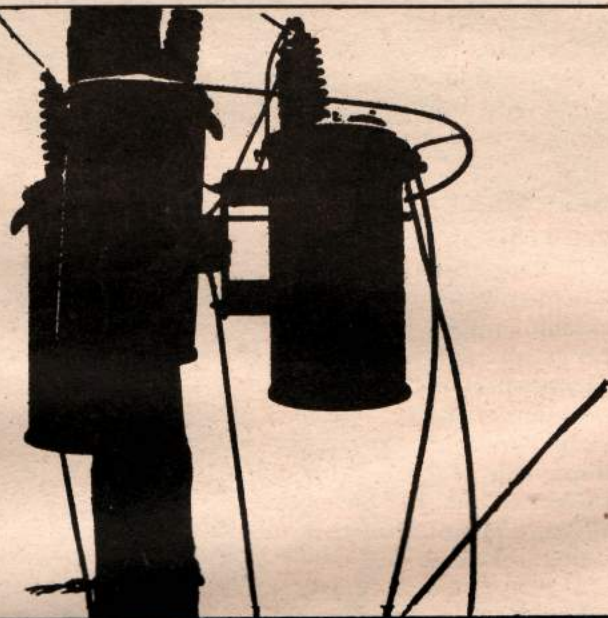
spection report was essentially worthless.

Meanwhile, Gordon Brown, an electrician at the pulp mill had his claim for compensation

means of safely disposing of toxic industrial wastes. The committee, which is largely made up of government and industry types, has no worker representation and only one representative from an environmental group, SPEC.

The Environmental Health Committee of the British Columbia Medical Association were not asked to participate in this Committee. And the Canadian Paperworkers' Union, which is obviously concerned about the disposal of toxic wastes, was refused admission to the Committee.

There is a reason for the numerical dominance of industry representatives on this committee. These representatives are primarily motivated by profit and are concerned that there will not be enough toxic



The answer relates to the fact that Northwood is not unique in its use of PCB in electrical systems. Thus, a decision by the Labour Relations Board which favoured the workers' right to refuse to work near toxic chemicals whether or not there had been an exposure, could affect the whole forest industry, the mine-milling and smelting industries and every chemical plant in the province.

For its part, the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia has played out its usual stumbling role in the

spection reports for the WCB testified at the Labour Board hearing that he had no knowledge of PCB, of its chemistry or of much else relevant to the issue. Given these facts, his

for disability as a result of PCB exposure at the mill rejected by the WCB.

Brown was told that tests to determine if he had an exposure to PCB were not available in Canada, only in the United States, and were very expensive. The Canadian Paperworkers' Union, which had grown justly dubious of the WCB, arranged to have Brown's tissues tested in Vancouver by laboratory which the WCB itself uses. The finding was that Brown had very elevated levels of PCB in his fat tissue.

At the present, Mr. Brown's lungs fill with liquid, his fingernails turn black and fall off. He is, in other words, a very sick man. John Baigent, lawyer for the union, keeps one of Brown's fingernails in a bottle on his desk. "Gordon sent it to me," he says, "He's got a whole drawerful at home. They just keep growing and falling out."

Meanwhile, the provincial Ministry of the Environment is scurrying to protect the industries of this province who will lose if the Board decision finally comes down in favour of the workers. A committee has been formed by the Waste Management Branch (formerly the Pollution Control Branch of B.C.) to look into ways and

chemical waste such as PCB available in B.C. to warrant the building of an incineration facility. They are therefore of the opinion that some thought should be given to the importation of chemical waste to make the disposal facility an economically viable operation.

In other words, to avoid having to subsidize a disposal facility for toxic waste generated in B.C. the employers in this province would import wastes from other provinces and make the disposal facility a profitable operation.

Gordon Brown is the tip of an iceberg. Because his illness is visibly manifested he is easy to pick out.

There are thousands of workers who have suffered exposures that they still carry with them and who will never be able to prove that the ill health they suffer is a result of their work.

The struggle that the Canadian Paperworkers' Union has undertaken against PCB is one of the most important worker health struggles in the province today. If successful, the work of the CPU could result in fewer workers retiring on the 'Chemical Pension Plan'.

Jim Brisebois is a writer and researcher of environmental issues.

We offer a new approach

SOC is a Marxist organization located primarily in B.C.'s Lower Mainland. SOC is not a political party. However, SOC sees the need for the creation of a socialist party in Canada and we are working toward this goal.

We maintain that it is necessary to learn all possible lessons from historical and contemporary international working class struggles. However, a program for a socialist Canada can only be formulated and implemented by understanding the present political and economic conditions in Canada and Canada's international role. There are no importable formulas for Canadian conditions.

While we are continually updating and enlarging the 'SOC Statement', we do not have all the answers. We are in contact and working with a number of like-minded groups and individuals on a local and national basis.

We believe SOC has the potential for success. If you would like to know more about SOC and its activities, talk to any of our members or write to:

**SOC 458 Northcliffe Cresc.
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1A1**

paid advertisement

Rape Relief

Working Class Women Helping Each Other

There are about twenty of us on a good day: two full-time paid members, six part-time paid members and twelve unpaid members. For most of us, it is a full-time, long-term commitment. We operate as a collective and share responsibility for crisis work, facilitation of the support/education/action groups, speaking engagements, financial decisions and for membership in a work group. We have organized our work into three main areas:

- **Taking Care of Ourselves.** This group is responsible for how we deal with counselling, crisis work, medical and legal information and internal collective business. In 1979, 510 women called us in crisis. Thus far in 1980, 480 women have called us.

- **Outreach.** This group takes primary responsibility for speaking engagements, workshops, political actions, publicity, media and public relations. In 1979 we did 270 speaking engagements. In 1980 we have done 220 speaking engagements, approximately 25 T.V. spots, 40 radio spots and have received a fair amount of newspaper coverage. We are working on an hour long video, "Tour of the War Zone", which will be completed in early 1981.

- **Allies.** This group is responsible for determining who our allies are and why they are part of our on-going work. Maintaining and building alliances with groups outside Rape



Relief such as the Coalition of B.C. Rape Crisis Centres, the Canadian Association of Sexual assault centres, BCFW member groups, other active feminist organizations provincially, the International Feminist Network, Vancouver Men Against Rape, the Radical Therapy Collective, the Anti-Racist Coalition, and the Canadian farm-workers' Union.

In addition to these groups, we have a Working Class Women's Caucus. They are a self-defined group of working class women who use a newsletter to educate the collective about the reality of their lives and the effects of their double oppression. They also criticize women from middle class backgrounds on class-related behaviour that is divisive to our movement and present motions and recommendations to the collective on specific topics.

There is a House-Finding group and a Job-Finding group, which is charged with

the responsibility of investigating jobs that could be shared collectively. The facilitators of the support/education/action groups meet regularly to trade progress reports and discuss tactics. We currently have three groups a week happening out of the Rape Relief office and another group that operates in the Skeena Terrace housing project. The groups operate on a drop-in basis and regular attendance varies between eight and fifteen women per session. Through these successful groups we have seen approximately fifty women become more actively involved in their own liberation.

Presently, we are raising money for a shelter to better serve women who have been victims of sexist violence. Even including Vancouver Transition House, Vancouver does not have secure housing for the hundreds of women in need.

Violence against women is learned behaviour. It is an effective method of keeping

women firmly in their places. "If I hit you, you will do as I say." In this country, 54 per cent of wives experience some degree of battering from their male partners. Since the abuse of women cuts across all economic lines, even a woman who lives in Shaughnessy may be only one man away from welfare. There's a neat little catch about welfare — to get it you have to have your own address — to have your own address you have to have money and if you don't have your own money then you need welfare which you can't get without an address of your own. Around and around it goes.

To escape their oppression — to get away from the battering — women need concretes: a roof over their heads, an address to give the Ministry of Human Resources and food for their children. This is where transition houses enter the picture and provide an essential link.

Ultimately, what we are seeking to create is not just a safe shelter. A temporary retreat may help you to feel better, but it's not going to change the conditions out there. And *out there* is where most of us have to live. What we are creating is an organizing centre for women. Women will be able to support each other,

educate each other with the stories of their lives, and move into action.

Our office is already beginning to look like a transition house. On any given day you will find kids, dogs, telephones ringing, the typewriters flying and women — all kinds of women. But it's not enough to just hear stories. To end our oppression, we need to join together and fight back collectively. All women need the women's movement. The women's movement needs all women, therefore the movement must be accessible — to all women.

For some years now, we have been calling ourselves an anti-rape centre. We define our objective as the eradication of all forms of violence against women. This objective rests on the idea that violence is a learned behaviour and can be changed. An essential part of this process is confronting men directly on their behaviour. In all the centuries of male domination and male bonding, men have not, spontaneously, come up with a plan to end the tyranny. They are not likely to give up their privilege without hearing loudly from me, you, and all women.

by Joni Miller, Outreach Committee, Vancouver Rape Relief.

Hemline Economy

Women's hemlines used to be considered a good economic indicator: high in prosperous years and low in depressions or recessions. Smith Barney, Harris, Upham and Company, a Wall Street firm is researching an alternative: the width of ties. Preliminary results indicate that a skinny tie is a mark of good times.

Her Say

Polish Womens' Struggles

Coverage of the strikes in Poland has been extensive. Much was written about the men who organized the general strike and fought for their union. Although Polish women also work in factories, organize unions and participated in the strike, hardly a word about women workers and their struggles could be found in the western press.

When the men in the shipyards decided to stop working in July, women workers in the textile plants shut down their machines as well. Later the Gdansk strike committee added five demands to their original 16 point program only after women workers forced

them to. Point 17 asked for better child care facilities for working mothers and point 18 asked for paid maternity leave of three years. Currently, women can take three years to care for their children but they are not paid for it.

A strike in the shipyards is heroic and worth reporting in the press but the many women who participated in the strike committees and the everyday efforts of other Polish women cannot be overlooked. During the strike, female newspaper carriers stopped delivering papers. Their reason: newspapers print only lies.

Newsfront International

Animals Before Children

In the United States, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was established 50 years after the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The Gap Widens

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development reports that not only are women in Canada paid less than men but they are paid proportionately less than in any other industrialized western country. Furthermore, Canada

has the distinction of being the only industrialized country where women actually lost ground in the past ten years.

In Sweden, women earn 87 per cent of what men earn on the average; in France, Denmark, Australia and the Netherlands it is over 80 per cent while in the U.S.A. it is about 65 per cent. In Canada, it is an unbelievably low 57 per cent.

Abortion in Mexico

In Mexico City's Sonora market, a woman with \$4 can purchase a popular powder to help induce natural abortion. For another \$5 she can buy twelve quinine tablets which vendors claim will remove the fertilized egg, or other occult potions advertised to "drive away the demon which has filtered into the holes left by the fetus".

Since abortion is still outlawed in their country, poor Mexican women frequently must resort to folk remedies or risk infection and death by going to midwives who perform crude operations under unsanitary conditions. These are the only choices available to the 90 per cent of Mexican women who cannot afford \$200 to \$750 for a covert abortion in a private hospital.

Newsfront International

Medical Lottery

Women in Liverpool, England needing operations have had to rely on a lottery for beds. They literally have had their names drawn from a hat. Four got beds and the other five were sent home in their night clothes from the gynaecological hospital.

Gynaecological beds in Liv-

erpool are being cut as part of a 4.5 million pound 'rationalization plan'. As a result, there are not nearly enough beds for routine operations. The surgeon responsible attacked the cuts saying, "We're being asked to cope with a number of beds totally inappropriate to the needs of the women in this city."

Spare Rib



Labour And The Constitution

Charter of Rights: dividing workers

This is a reprint from the November issue of Labour Focus — a bulletin of the Ottawa Committee for Labour Action.

Anyone listening to the constitutional debate that has been raging in Canada for the last two months would think that each of us was first and foremost a British Columbian, an Ontarian, a 'Canadian', an Albertan, or a Maritimer, and only secondarily a worker, a farmer, or a boss. And this is one of the most insidious effects of the constitutional issue as it has been framed by Trudeau and premiers: it may lead working people to identify with the supposed interests of their particular regions, dividing them from workers in other parts of Canada, and weakening their capacity to defend their common interests as workers. It is unfortunate that the NDP too has joined the game of regionalism, demanding as the price of its support for the Trudeau package not something for workers but something for one region, the West.

Labour's Interests

One can well understand why Cliff Pilkey, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour, told the Queen's Park rally against lay-offs and unemployment that the politicians should get off the constitutional issue and deal with the pressing economic concerns of workers.

Nonetheless, it is short-sighted and false to counterpose economic issues against the constitutional debate. *Labour should be making its interests and the fundamental rights it needs part of the constitutional debate.* Particularly at a time when it has become clear again that full employment cannot be guaranteed by the economy itself, a central requirement of a new constitution must surely be to guarantee people the most basic right of all — the one on

which their dignity and their livelihood depends — the right to a job.

And there is plenty of room for other proposals that would inject workers' interests into the constitutional debate, and help build a united labour movement across Canada. For the Trudeau Charter of Rights says absolutely nothing about the basic economic rights workers need in order to have any hope of enjoying the 'freedoms' the Charter promises them. Nor does it recognize the rights women and native people need it they are to reach the same goal.

Collective Rights Absent

The Charter of Rights is supposed to guarantee all Canadians the democratic right to an equal voice in how they are governed — but it does nothing to right the vast inequalities of wealth and power that allow capitalists to control the media, finance their political parties generously, and blackmail democratically elected governments by threatening to pull out their investments and operations — or not invest at all. If workers are ever to be able to fight this tremendous power they must have the right to organize, to form trade unions, and to strike. These are the most effective weapons workers have. Yet the Trudeau Charter has nothing to say about these fundamental economic rights, without which formal political equality ('one person, one vote') is of limited value.

Workers need these rights protected in the constitution — Canada has far too many laws which abrogate or limit the right to strike for different groups of workers, and which prevent union organization or make it subject to a million bureaucratic conditions. Other democratic constitutions do protect these rights: the Italian Constitution, for instance, guarantees not only the right to

a job, but also the right to strike, albeit with some limits. Still this guarantee is so strong that the courts have ruled that contracts may not contain no-strike clauses. (Exactly the opposite of the situation here, where no-strike clauses are compulsory.)

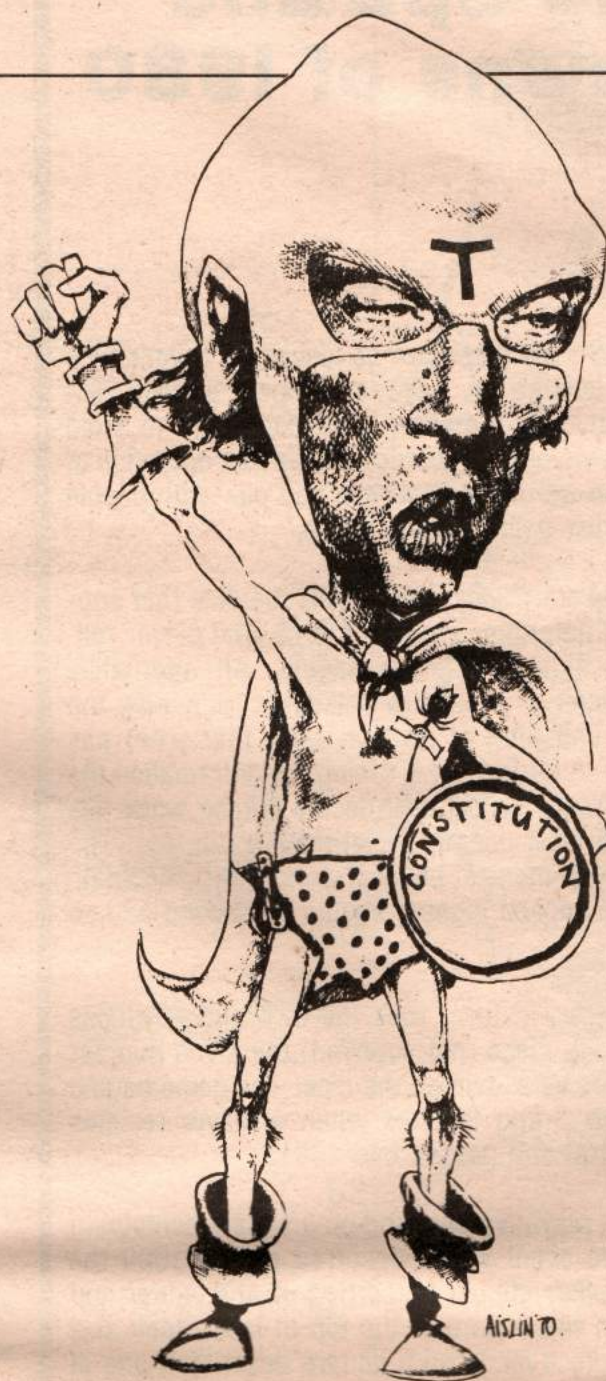
The Charter is in fact deafeningly silent about rights in the workplace, which are of fundamental importance to most Canadians: the right to safe working conditions, the right to refuse unsafe work, and freedom from arbitrary dismissal, to name only a few. Nothing is said about the right to severance pay or paid holidays and sick leave. There is not even a provision forbidding discrimination in hiring: only discrimination by the law is prohibited.

All of this is not accidental, since both the Liberals and the Conservatives are businessmen's parties. And of course the provincial premiers (including, unfortunately, Allan Blakeney of the NDP) have not protested. They all — federal and provincial governments — think that provincial ownership of resources is a 'fundamental' question, that must be settled by the constitution, but that workers' rights to organize and to work in a decent workplace are less 'fundamental'.

Nor does the Charter mention other rights which are necessary for ordinary people if they are to participate on an equal basis in the government of our society and lead decent, meaningful lives — the right to an education regardless of ability to pay, for instance, or the right to health care and to a dignified retirement. These basic rights pale in importance for Trudeau and the premiers besides regional claims.

Women And Native Peoples Ignored

The Charter of Rights guarantees equality for women



only in the very narrow legal sphere. It does not protect women against discrimination in hiring, and it totally ignores the fact that a woman who cannot get daycare for her children cannot even apply for a job. The Charter does nothing to remedy this kind of discrimination that is built into our social and economic system, just as it does not right in any way the inequality between workers and employers that is inherent in capitalism.

There are no rights to daycare, paid maternity leave with the right to return to the same job, or access to birth control and abortion facilities. (One of the Polish workers' demands in this summer's strikes was *three years* paid maternity leave — if Canadian workers had even one tenth of that, they'd be better off than they are now.) Nor is there any right to equal pay for work of equal value, or protection against discrimination in work assignment and promotion once a woman is hired.

And for native peoples, there is nothing in the Charter that recognizes their special rights, in particular treaty rights, or acknowledges their particular rights to self-government.

Glaring Loopholes


Even the elementary legal and political rights the Charter does claim to protect — freedoms of speech, of association, of the press, freedom from arbitrary arrest, the right to vote and so forth — are guaranteed only subject to "such reasonable limits as are generally accepted in a free and democratic society with a

parliamentary system of government." This clause leaves the door wide open to all sorts of dictatorial and arbitrary governmental actions; it does not protect us, for instance, from a re-imposition of the War Measures Act, under which nearly 500 people were arrested and detained without being guilty of, or even charged with, any crime.

And, to make things worse, it (and the rest of the Charter) will be interpreted by judges who continue to be appointed by federal cabinets, Liberal and Tory, from among their political supporters and cronies. How such a judiciary, which is inevitably conservative and pro-business in its general bias, can be called 'independent', is a mystery.

Last but not least, the Charter does not recognize the democratic right of the Quebec people to decide their own destiny, even though this recognition is necessary to any understanding between the two nations, and any unity between workers in Quebec and English Canada.

Workers, then, are right to be impatient of the constitutional debate as it has gone on up to now. There is nothing in the Trudeau package for them, and the debate could potentially divide them. But this need not be so. We should try and use it to show how far short of being a real democracy Canada is, and to put forward demands for rights for working people that will unite them from one end of the country to the other. Constitutional rights can't solve workers' problems, but they can be of real value in the struggle to do so.



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The Ups and Downs of 1980

RULES

PLAYERS: The game can be played by anyone who is old enough to have developed a clear left perspective. In the spirit of solidarity and to avoid quarrels which may disrupt the smooth operation of the game we recommend that you play with people of a similar political perspective.

PLAY: To start, each player rolls the dice (not supplied) to determine who goes first. The player rolling the highest number begins. An alternative would be for all players to present to each other the amount and kind of political work that s(he) has engaged in during 1980. Using this information the group should collectively decide whose work has been the least liberal, social democratic, etc. The person with the best political work rating should go first, the second highest should go second and so on.

Each player, in turn, rolls the dice and advances one playing piece (not supplied) the same number of squares as shown on the dice. The game begins at square 1 and finishes when a player reaches square 100 and passes into 1981.






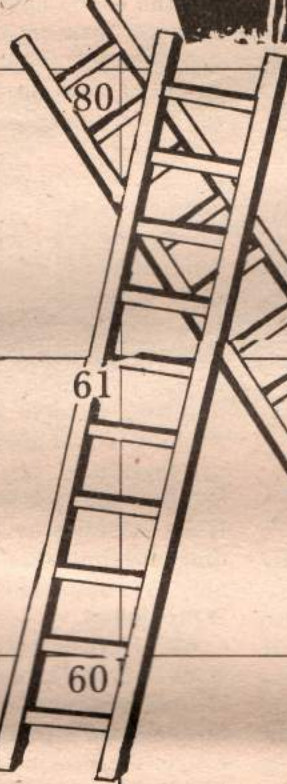






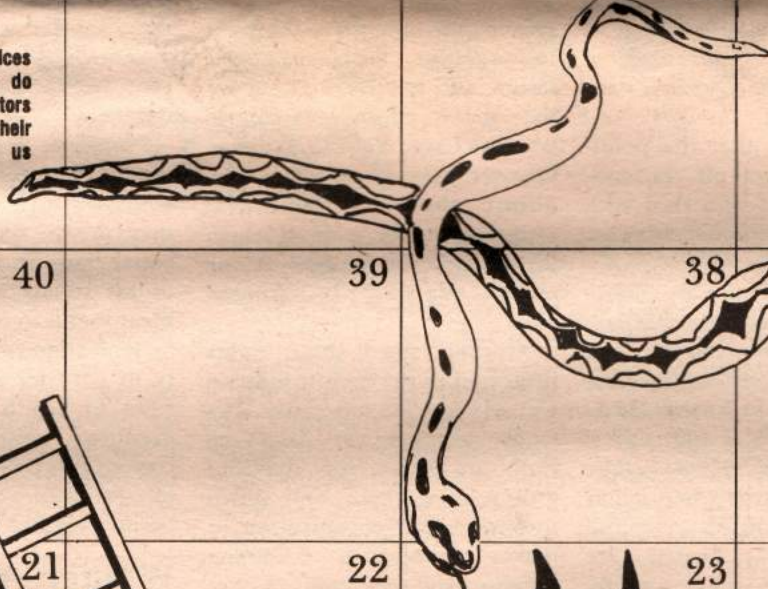
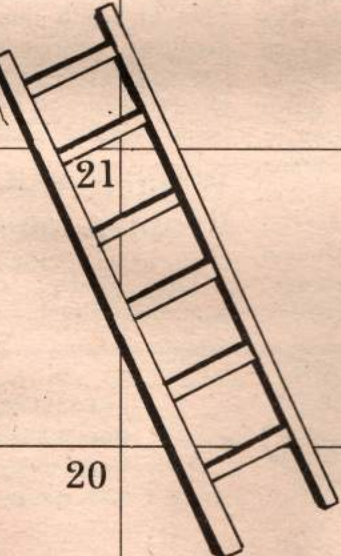




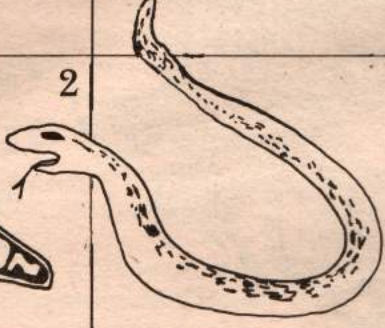
Should a playing piece land on a square containing a positive event which occurred during 1980 the playing piece should be carried up the ladder and placed in the square at the top of the ladder. If a playing piece lands on a square describing one of negative events (moves to the right, rearmament, etc.) the piece should be carried down the snake's body to the square containing the head of the snake. Several squares on the board describe events occurring during 1980 whose political significance for the left are either undetermined at this moment or contain both positive and negative aspects. When a piece lands on one of these squares the player involved should describe to the others playing how s(he) hopes this event will be resolved.

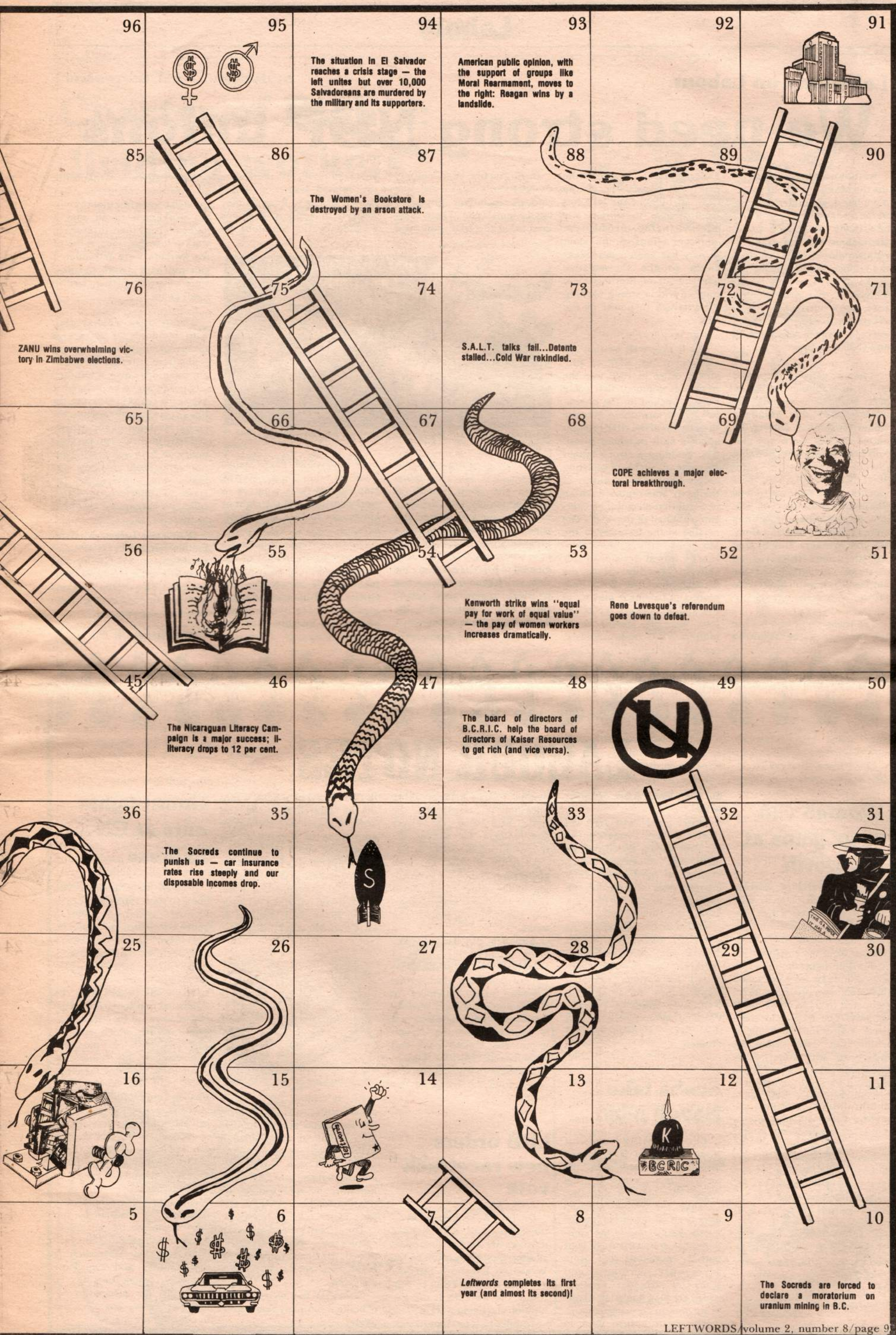
When a piece lands on a square occupied by another piece, the piece of the other player is bumped and the other player must start again at square 1. The reason for bumping is that the left is still plagued by a tremendous amount of sectarianism. Consequently, bumping will have to continue until the left finds a way to work together.

There are no real winners in this game. When a player lands on square 100, his or her political work for 1980 is finished. The player then passes into 1981 and is asked to keep on struggling. The game doesn't end until all players have passed into 1981.

To land on square 100, a player must throw the exact number on the dice. If the throw of the dice turns up a number that is too high, the turn is missed and the player must try again during her or his next turn. If a player who is on square 94 to 99 rolls doubles above the number seven, the player is permitted to try to roll into 1981 by using only one dice. This privilege only applies to the turn in which the player rolled the doubles and cannot be carried over to other turns.

NOTE: Due to the political nature of the game, we ask you not to play with Social Credit or Conservative party supporters or other of the same mentality. These people might choose to play a game where they go up the snakes and down the ladders. Please do not allow this to occur.

100 Congratulations! You survived 1980. Advance to 1981 and keep struggling.	99 You almost made it! But Socreds still in power, U.S. still dominates Canada, capitalism still reigns.	98 	97 
81 	82 	83	84 
80 	79	78 	77
61 	62	63	64 
60 	59	58	57 
41 The Farmworkers' Union wins its first contract.	42	43	44 The K.K.K. comes to B.C.
40 	39 	38	37
21 	22	23 	24 
20	19 The Native Indian Caravan points its finger at Gracie and wins control of Indian children.	18 Anti-choicers win at Surrey Hospital (but the doctors force them to partially backdown).	17 
1 1980 	2 	3	4 Gracie's finger becomes exposed (but the Socreds quickly cover it up!).



Leftwords on Labour

We need strong ~~NDP~~ unions

It is no understatement to say the the Manitoba labour movement has degenerated into one of the weakest in any province of Canada. Despite a proud tradition of militant trade unionism dating back to before the famous Winnipeg General Strike of 1919, recent labour history in that province has been characterized by a series of losing strikes and the lowest average wage settlements of any Canadian province.

A look at some of the major strikes in Manitoba during the past few years reveals the weakness of the Manitoba labour movement. During this period strikes were successfully broken at Quality Bedding (Steelworkers union), Griffin Steel (CAIMAW), and most recently at the Winnipeg Clinic (Institutional Employees Union). As well, strikes at Safeway stores (United Food and Commercial Workers Union) and AEI Electronics (IBEW) ended on terms favourable to the employer as a result of successful use of strikebreakers.

The major voice of labour in the province is the Manitoba

Federation of Labour, the provincial component of the CLC. To this point the MFL has been unable to develop any effective strategy to combat the employer offensive. Its main activity has been a persistent attack on the Conservative government of Sterling Lyon coupled with a strong backing for a return to power of the NDP.

Yet it may well be that the election of the NDP to provincial office in 1969 was the worst development that could have happened for the provincial labour movement because the success of the NDP brought about a shift in labour priorities. Building a strong labour movement capable of resisting employer attacks (a priority of the past) was replaced with a new priority: electoral boosterism on behalf of the NDP. The decline in the fortunes of the Manitoba labour movement can be traced directly to this shift in priorities. Since the leadership of the B.C. Federation of Labour is moving in this same direction, the Manitoba example should be of interest to B.C. trade unionists.

During its first year in office, the NDP made many legislative reforms including improved labour legislation. There is no doubt that the NDP improved

years 1976 and 1977, there were two related issues in which Labour Minister Russ Paulley refused to support positions adopted by the Manitoba la-

collective agreement that made all overtime voluntary. After the strike was a few months old, the workers were all sent a letter advising them to return to work or lose their jobs. A few of the workers were intimidated and went back to work, but most were never to work at Griffin Steel again.

The strike was a messy affair with hundreds of arrests as mass pickets attempted to stop scabs from entering the plant. On some days over a hundred city police would be on hand to assist the scabs in crossing the lines. This was all much to the embarrassment of the provincial NDP government, yet their policy on both voluntary overtime and strikebreaking was that it was improper for the state to interfere in "free collective bargaining" in either of these areas.

It was not Labour Minister Paulley but another NDP Cabinet Minister, Sid Green, who was the main architect of these policies. The NDP positions were justified by Green with the following statements:

Continued on Pg 11



Ed Broadbent, NDP leader and Dennis McDermott, CLC leader

health care programs, and took over the auto insurance industry to the great benefit of working people. The development of excellent senior citizens' accommodation was also a great advance. But, as in every case where the NDP has been elected to provincial office, the time was bound to come when political opportunism would come into conflict with the demands of trade unionists.

In Manitoba, during the

hour movement. These issues involved the right of the employer to force workers to work overtime and the right of employers to hire strikebreakers.

These two important issues were being argued against the background of a real life example. In 1976, the workers at Griffin Steel foundry began a legal strike. The issue was the employer's insistence on removing language from the

LABOUR NOTES

Women win wage gains at Kenworth

On December 23rd, workers at the Kenworth plant in Burnaby voted to accept a new contract ending their seven month strike and forcing major concessions from the employer.

A major issue in the strike was the inferior wage rates paid to women data process workers compared to those of the plant workers. The settlement effectively ended the wage ghetto within the data processing department with some jobs in that group to be paid well above the plant start rate (all data process workers were well below

the plant start rate prior to the strike).

Most plant workers will receive a wage increase of 43 per cent during the life of the three year agreement, which expires in April 1983. Data process rates will go up an average of nearly 70 per cent during the same period.

The strike by members of the Canadian Association of Industrial, Mechanical and Allied Workers was strongly supported by various women's organizations including the Vancouver Status of Women, Working Women Unite, and the B.C. Federation of Women.

Scabs take Nabob jobs

The growing use of strikebreakers in B.C. labour disputes continues with the latest example occurring at the Nabob Foods plant in Burnaby.

While the Nabob workers have been on the picket line for nearly four months, the company has maintained at least partial operations by using supervisory personnel and scabs to turn out products which are then hauled to Alberta by non-union operators.

The security firm used to

oversee this strikebreaking operation is Securiguard, the same firm used by Placer Development for similar activities during the strike at Endako Mine in 1979. The scab goods from Nabob are even going to the same warehouse in Calgary that was used to store 'hot goods' during the Endako strike.

Although the B.C. Labour Code prohibits the hiring of professional strikebreakers, the Labour Board has ruled against previous union attempts to charge companies and security firms with violating the law. It is expected that the Nabob union, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, will attempt to win a favourable ruling from the Board on this issue.

LRB orders new racetrack vote

On Jan. 8 the Labour Relations Board of B.C. handed down its decision on an appeal against the certification of the Westcoast Racetrack Employees Association (TEA) to represent the workers at the Exhibition Park racetrack.

The Board ruled that its ear-

lier certification of TEA would not be allowed to stand and ordered a new vote among the employees to determine the bargaining agent.

The appeal was launched by the Canadian Association of Industrial, Mechanical and Allied Workers (CAIMAW) after a vote at the track resulted in TEA's certification in September.



In its ruling, the Board agreed with CAIMAW's objection to the vote stating that the intervention of the Canadian Labour Congress into the fray at the track was "insidious" and that subsequent TEA/CLC literature misrepresented the relationship between TEA and the CLC.

The "true wishes of the employees" were not determined, the Board ruled, as the employees choice had been distorted.

CAIMAW has accused TEA of being a company-dominated union.

Union fights cuts at CN Express

A plan by Canadian National to slash 1200 jobs from its Express division in 1981 is under attack from the union involved, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers.

The union believes that this is only the first step in the eventual closure of the whole Express service, which employs 4600 workers. A pamphlet published by the Vancouver union local states that these cutbacks will hit residents of smaller communities who will have to use more expensive private trucking services to meet their needs. CN Express is the only cross-Canada trucking service and has over 70 terminals of which half are to be closed in 1981.

A letter-writing campaign to Members of Parliament has been organized by the union. The union urges those concerned to write their MP protesting the cutbacks and requesting that government hearings be held in the affected communities before any decisions to cut back are made.



"I haven't had a promotion for 30 years either, but I don't spend all day griping about it."

Fred Wright, Union Cartoons

Labour

Leftwords on Labour continued

Continued from Pg. 10

"Employees who choose not to work in support of their position must be made well aware of the risk that they are taking with respect to either losing the strike and/or losing their employment."

"Employees who are of the opinion that the law protects them in making demands in either the public or private service should be made aware that if their demands do not marshal public opinion in such a way as to cause them to succeed, they will certainly lose the strike."

In short, the NDP position amounted to a "hands-off" approach to certain aspects of collective bargaining based on the rather astonishing belief that labour and management were evenly matched opponents able to "marshal public support" and exercise economic pressure on an equal basis. This position aroused considerable debate within the party since the provincial NDP had previously adopted a policy in support of a ban on the hiring of strikebreakers.

In 1977, the NDP went down to defeat at the polls. In the years since then, party members and the labour movement have attempted to pin all the blame on Sid Green for these anti-labour policies. The campaign against Green culminated in his resignation from the party last year. (He now sits as

an independent MLA.) What is conveniently swept under the rug is that the majority of the NDP Cabinet supported the policies developed by Green (current NDP leader Howard Pawley was one member of that Cabinet).

The failure of the NDP in Manitoba points out the pitfalls of substituting political hucksterism for principled trade unionism. The well-deserved defeat of the Manitoba NDP left behind a labour movement that had forgotten the basic of

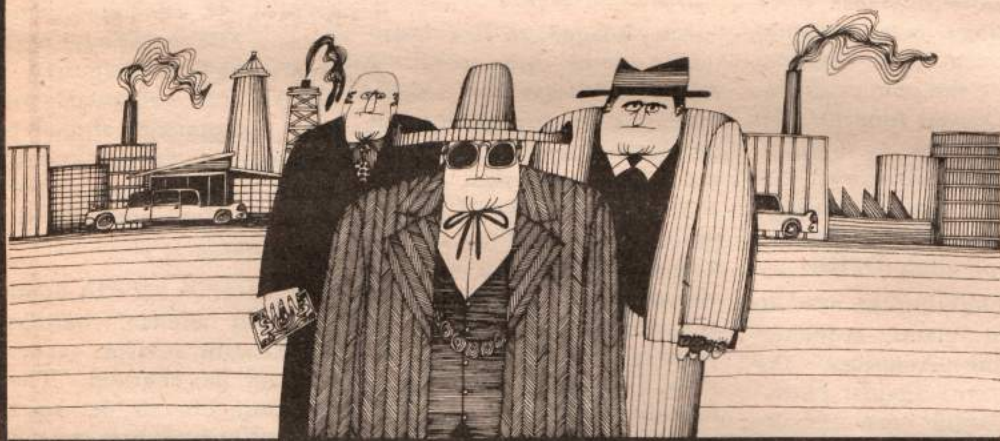
fighting and winning battles against the employer. What we have left are lost strikes, many poor settlements, and increasing numbers of company unions.

Whether or not working

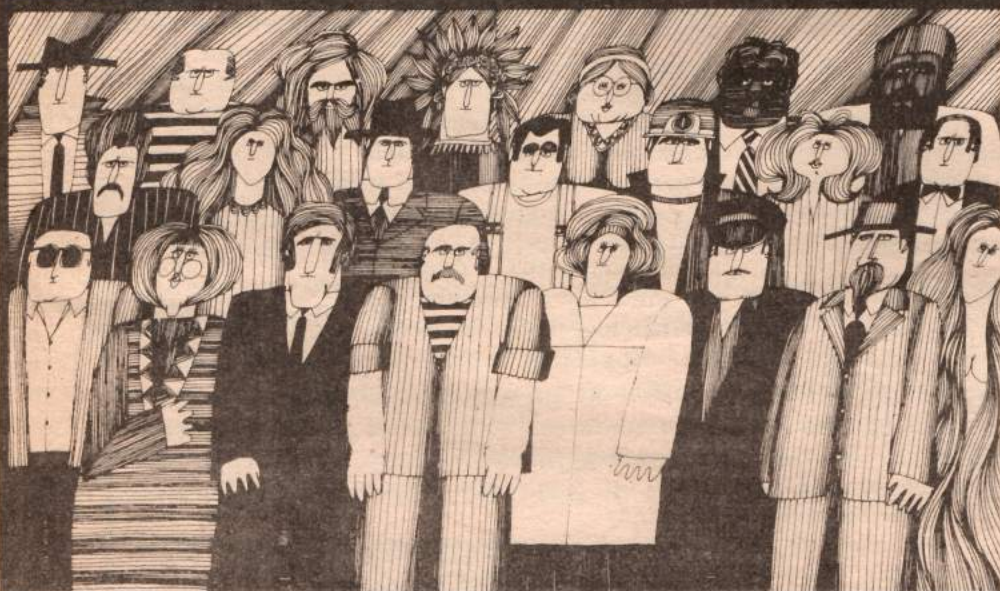
people decide to support the NDP is not the issue. The same goes for whether or not unions support the NDP. The issue is what priority should participation in electoral politics have for the labour movement? If there is any lesson to be learned from the Manitoba experience, it is that whatever the level of such participation, it should always remain secondary to and independent from the building of a union movement that can exercise its collective strength against the increasing power of the employers. There is little doubt at present that these priorities are mixed up within many of the provincial federations of labour and within the leadership of the Canadian Labour Congress.

If we are ever to have a democratic socialist government in Canada, we must first have a strong, democratic socialist-oriented labour movement. The former cannot occur without the latter. We have a long way to go before such a labour movement can be built, but this goal could be achieved much faster if more of the time now spent politicking on behalf of the NDP was used to strengthen the labour movement through such measures as organizing more of the unorganized, establishing effective strike support networks, and improving the lot of women workers. The NDP cannot do these things for the labour movement, but by working together as trade unionists these important tasks can be achieved enabling more effective participation in the political process in the future.

This column is written by the Leftwords labour editor.



WHICH SIDE HAS POWER?



SOCIALISM FOR THE 1980'S

A CONFERENCE JANUARY 23-25, 1981

UBC, LAW BUILDING, ROOMS 101-2, 201

Friday, January 23rd:

7:00 — 7:30 p.m. Registration

7:30 — 10:30 p.m. Panel discussion "Socialism and the World"

Saturday, January 24th:

9:00 — 11:00 a.m. "From the 1960's to the 1980's"

11:00 — 12:15 p.m. "Women's Movement and Socialism"

1:30 — 3:30 p.m. "The Canadian Left"

3:30 — 5:30 p.m. "Technology and the Environment"

8:00 p.m. Social evening, Graduate Student Centre, Garden Room

Sunday, January 25th:

9:30 — 12:00 a.m. "International Economic Crisis"

1:00 — 2:30 p.m. "Quebec and Canada"

2:30 — 5:00 p.m. "The Left in the 1980's"

Registration fee:

Employed *10.00

Unemployed and students *5.00

Central America Faces Subversion Under Reagan

by Tim Draimin

Since Ronald Reagan is so inexperienced in foreign affairs and almost totally ignorant of Central America, his administration is relying heavily on the small circle of Latin American experts being assembled by Richard V. Allen — Reagan's most likely candidate as national security advisor. This team, like others assembled by Allen, is part of what the *Washington Post* describes as a "Who's Who of rightist theoreticians and activists".

These advisors have been busy for months touring Central America as they prepare a coherent U.S. strategy which will be set into motion on January 20. Although both Reagan and his advisors have refrained from providing specifics on their plans, the general guiding principles have been constantly reiterated.

Both the growing strength of popular opposition movements in Central America and the area's proximity to the United States mean that Central America is high on the agenda of the incoming administration. According to Jeane Kirkpatrick, Reagan's leading advisor and designated spokesperson on Latin American policy, "The problems in Central America must be dealt with immediately".

Under the direction of Reagan's top foreign policy advisor Richard V. Allen, Georgetown University professor Kirkpatrick is preparing Central American policy with less than a dozen other experts.

Central America is not important economically to the U.S. Less than one per cent of

American exports are purchased by the region and U.S. direct foreign investment is calculated to be less than \$1 billion in book value. However, Reagan's team views Central America from a geo-political perspective — one which analyzes the region in terms of the global rivalry between east and west. Looked at with geo-politically sensitive eyes, Central America is seen together with the entire Caribbean basin area.

"Intelligence activities have a paramount role to play"

Reagan's strategists warn that this southern bordering neighbour could be the soft underbelly of American defenses, especially since they point to rising Russian presence there. According to James Theberge, "The defense of the U.S. mainland and the western hemisphere requires that the United States have unimpeded access to Caribbean waters, certain territories, bases and the Panama Canal".

It is evident that no Central American development, no matter how domestic in character, will escape the sweeping purview of U.S. interests as the cold war heats up.

Reagan's advisors work from the premise that by concentrating on encouraging human

rights, Carter effectively undermined the internal security of America's staunchly anti-communist allies as well as causing the "rapid deterioration" of their relations with the U.S. In turn, this has alienated their support of U.S. positions in such international forums as the U.N. and the Organization of American States (OAS). "That will end in January," vows Jeane Kirkpatrick. "The Reagan administration will have higher regard for traditional practices."

Kirkpatrick argues that the U.S. must stop criticizing "any government that has attempted to suppress terrorism and guerrilla action..." To the contrary, since "all the countries seem to be vulnerable (to communism)...we are going to have to help them".

Another Reagan advisor, Roger Fontaine, asserts that "armed minorities supported by principally the Cubans are attempting to destabilize regimes..." Therefore Central America, especially El Salvador and Guatemala, says Fontaine, will become the recipient of unlimited economic and military aid including the placement of U.S. military advisors.

Reagan's policies are expected to coincide with those recommendations made last July by the Council of the Americas, the business lobby representing over 200 corporations active in Latin America. Alluding to the political instability in Central America, the Council says that more insurance should be made available for U.S. investments through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

By highlighting the need to protect the 'market economy' around the Americas, the Council warns against pursuing significant economic reforms as part of a counter-revolutionary strategy. In the case of El Salvador this means withdrawing support for the previous nationalization of the banking system, and the agrarian reform. The Council also sees the U.S. providing "expanded military and security training". It also seems to suggest that direct intervention remain an option when admonishing the U.S. government to "discourage expropriation of private property and stand ready when called upon to assist U.S. investors..."

As soon as Ronald Reagan emerged as the victor in the presidential contest, the impact of America's swing to the right was felt throughout Central America. While the military rightists look forward to Reagan's presidency, they are attempting to use the lameduck



period of President Carter to strike out at the centre and left opposition sectors. "No one can be sure what policies Reagan will finally adopt," one well-placed Guatemalan told the *New York Times*. "So the idea is to present him with a fait accompli. It also means that Reagan need not be associated with the bloodbath."

Any Reagan advisor questioned on the threat of direct American intervention always disclaims its probability but refuses to discard its possibility. When questioned by the *U.S. News and World Report* (Nov. 24, 1980), Fred Ilke, a Reagan defence analyst, stressed that, "President Reagan would regard the use of military force as a last resort." "But," he qualified, "we have to realize that in this imperfect world, military strength is, in a sense, the backbone of diplomacy."

If there is one lesson the Republicans say they have learned from recent U.S. 'defeats' in Iran and Nicaragua, it is that intelligence activities have a paramount role to play. Concerned that any Republican administration have the full range of 'covert capabilities' at its disposal, a special intelligence subcommittee of the Republican National Committee drew up a blueprint for overhauling the U.S. intelligence apparatus.

Under the direction of Richard V. Allen, ex-CIA personnel and retired military officers drew up guidelines which included:

- More covert action: describing clandestine services as "of inestimable value to our na-

tional security" the report concludes that "they should be strengthened". This would be accomplished by the creation of a "wholly clandestine" combined information gathering and counter-intelligence agency called the Foreign Operations Service (FOS).

- Mobilization of the entire government for intelligence: the new FOS would have every federal agency "required to furnish...full credentials, working assignments abroad for purposes of 'cover', and full cooperation". Private corporations would be encouraged to do the same.

- Replacement of CIA liberalism with defense's hardline: top Reagan advisor, General Graham, has charged, "There are more liberals per square foot in the CIA than in any other part of government". Therefore the administration is admonished to rely more on the conservative analysis and policy recommendations of the military's own intelligence establishment. The main beneficiary will be the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

The new Reagan administration will try to avoid creating the public impression of a drastic about-face in U.S. policy towards Central America. Instead it will rely heavily on covert tactics to fulfill policy objectives. However, because Reagan has placed so much public emphasis on reviving American prestige and holding the line on "vital U.S. interests", military intervention will remain as the last resort to reverse the decline of U.S. fortunes in the region.

Hot off the griddle!



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Leftwords interview

ZIMBABWE

One year later

It has been a year now since Patriotic Front guerrillas lay down their arms in a cease fire agreement with the white-dominated government of Rhodesia and approximately nine months since ZANU leader Robert Mugabe became prime minister of independent Zimbabwe. Since then, black rule has brought significant change to that war-ravaged country. In the following interview, leftwords asks Paul Puritt, an Oxfam Program Development Officer for southern Africa, about Zimbabwe under Mugabe, its problems and its prospects.

Question: What kind of situation did Mugabe face after

coming to power last April? **Answer:** It was a situation in which no one could really be happy or satisfied. On the Patriotic Front side, the masses of peasants, workers and guerrillas had just endured a bitter seven year period of armed struggle. Most of the fertile land remained in the white commercial farm sector with the government lacking sufficient money to buy land. In some areas, workers went on strike to improve their position unaware that the government could not work that fast. In consequence, minimum wages are still very low although working conditions are beginning to change somewhat with increased worker participation in decision-making.

On the other side, Mugabe has tried to appease the white population, to demonstrate his goodwill and to keep them in the country. But the whites are afraid as Mugabe opens up avenues for the advancement of blacks. White civil servants fear for the loss of their jobs although this hasn't happened yet. In the area of land, the government has bought 145 abandoned farms to date and will probably move to expropriate others although this is against the existing constitution and will cause ripples among the white population. But Mugabe has to move on it sometime. **Question:** Recent media reports in the west have emphasized the re-emergence of old



Robert Mugabe - P.M. of Zimbabwe

political and tribal rivalries between Mugabe's base in ZANU and the ZAPU forces under the leadership of Joshua Nkomo who is the Home Affairs Minister in Mugabe's government. There were even reports last November of fighting in Bulawayo with several casualties. What is the significance of this?

Answer: It should be kept in mind that, of the entire population of Zimbabwe, it is often the guerrillas who are the most politicized elements. They are also, at present, highly dissatisfied being confined to their barracks in the assembly camps without a useful role in the new society. As for the fighting, there has always been a certain hostility between the two component parts of the old Patriotic Front alliance, something which the western press has tried to blow up into an image of impending civil war.

Years ago, Zanu was formed as a split-off group from ZAPU. Following the split, feelings of betrayal remained and the two groups proceeded to develop different bases of support. ZAPU was based in Zambia and received significant support from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. ZANU, on the other hand, was based in Mozambique and received support from China and other countries outside the Soviet bloc.

With ZANU's election victory, old hostilities returned. Ethnic division along tribal lines is a factor but it is simplistic to stress this only. It should also be noted that there are a number of competing tendencies and divisions within each group.

In the immediate future, I don't think that we will see a civil war develop out of this. **Question:** One development that has certainly fueled internal tension within the country has been the trial of Edward Tekere, Minister of Manpower within Mugabe's government, who is accused of murdering a white farmer. What are the political implications of this trial?

Answer: The trial is a rather confusing affair. Ostensibly, the murder charge emerged out of a military operation with Tekere leading a ZANLA con-

tingent (ZANLA is the military wing of ZANU) in pursuit of armed assassins. Somehow fighting broke out between the ZANLA contingent and black security forces and in the process, a white farmer was shot. Subsequently, Tekere was charged with murder.

Some people in Zimbabwe contend that the trial is really a political ploy because Tekere is said to represent the left wing of ZANU and there are some who would want him put away. Since the trial began, there have been demonstrations in support of Tekere.

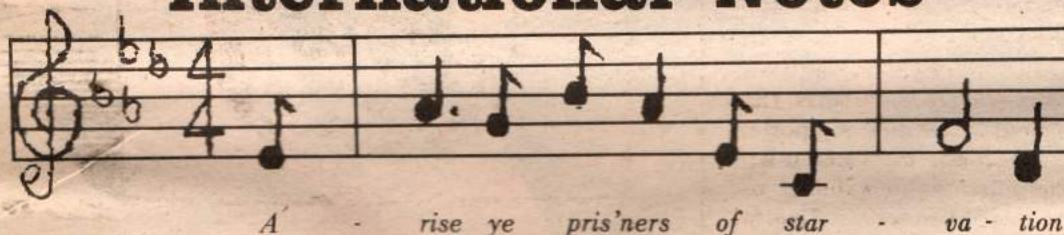
Question: Where does Zimbabwe go from here?

Answer: One thing that can be said for certain is that a sudden and dramatic transformation of the country is not in the cards. For now, Mugabe's task is to consolidate power, particularly at the higher levels — in the civil service and the ministries. Currently, white civil servants control the flow of information within government with only a thin veneer of blacks on top of the bureaucracy.

Mugabe will have to draw upon the 20,000 black Zimbabwean university graduates outside the country to further this process of the consolidation of power by placing them in jobs. At the same time, he will try and avoid antagonizing the white population, most of whom are employed in the government and in the service sectors of the economy. There are only 5,500 white farmers left, the rest having been displaced by agribusiness — like Rothman's tobacco. Mugabe will need funds to compensate these farmers but it is unlikely that he will get these funds internationally. In the meantime, prior to any major expropriation move, the small white farmers are demanding government subsidies and Mugabe will have to deal with this. In the long run though, he will have to make a major move on the question of land.

In the short run then, the country faces a lot of problems as ZANU tries to consolidate itself. Whites, workers, peasants — they are all upset at their current share of the pie. However, we are also seeing Mugabe hold things together in a remarkable way.

International Notes



Irish hunger strike ends

A long and bitter hunger strike ended on December 18 in Northern Ireland's notorious H-Block prisons when protesting prisoners, some of whom had been without food for close to eight weeks, called off the action claiming a tacit victory in their struggle for political status.

The strike began on October 27 when seven Republican prisoners refused food and it quickly escalated as three women prisoners in Armagh and 29 other H-Block inmates joined the struggle in succeeding weeks.

The demand for political status in the prisons flows from the fact that Republican inmates see Britain's imperialist presence in the north as the root cause of political strife in that region. The demand is further bolstered by the fact that the H-Block prisoners have all been tried in special no-jury courts set up by the authorities to cope with the rising tide of Republican struggle.

In practical terms, the attainment of political status would have meant the right to refuse all prison work, the right not to wear prison uniforms and freedom of association within the prisons. Sources in Northern Ireland report that the British government have agreed to exempt Republican prisoners from 80 per cent of a normal prison workload as well as to allow them to wear their own clothes and that this is why the prisoners agreed to end the strike.

The British concessions follow in the wake of a mass campaign of demonstrations, both national and international, in support of the strikers' demands. In Vancouver, solidarity work with the struggle in the north is being undertaken by the Northern Ireland Support Committee, #3-1437 East 10th Ave. Anyone wishing to participate in that work is encouraged to contact the Committee.

Think tank recommends harder line

The Heritage Foundation, a right-wing think tank and lobby has presented incoming U.S. president Ronald Reagan with a report recommending a harder line and "standard intelligence techniques" against American dissidents. They urge "presidential emphasis on the nature of the internal threat...the reality of subversion...and the unamerican nature of so-called 'dissidence'."

Fiat lays off 24,000

Italian workers suffered a defeat in October when FIAT went ahead with its plan to lay off 24,000 workers following an agreement with union leaders. Six thousand of the laid off workers are women, representing fully 40 per cent of FIAT's female workforce.

The company has up to two years to decide whom to rehire, and when, but as the leftist weekly *Quotidiano dei Lavorati*

put it, "If the company can get the same production with 24,000 workers less, why should it hire them back?"

Filipino network forms

On October 3rd, 25 delegates of the former 'Friends of the Filipino People' from seven major cities met to launch Philippine Solidarity Network. The new nationwide organization is opposed to U.S. intervention in the Philippines and supports the struggle of the Filipino people for freedom and genuine democracy.

Turkish army tightens hold

The Turkish National Security Council (NSC) has promulgated a provisional constitution. In a press conference with foreign journalists on October 28th, General Saltik, Secretary General of the NSC, asserted that until military rule could "eradicate the roots of terrorism, a return to civilian rule was out of the question." Saltik, one of the most influential figures in the Turkish military, affirmed that an assembly will soon be empowered to draw up new legislation on political parties and the electoral system.

Meanwhile, according to a military communique released on October 28th, 393 right-wing extremists have been arrested since the September 12th coup and 56 of them have been charged, while 1558 leftists have been incarcerated with 437 charged.

Music to grow up with

The Green Fields of Canada

An album of Canadian Folk Songs
sung by Jon Bartlett
and Rika Ruebsaat
Vancouver, 1979

by Norbert Ruebsaat

First there's music you've "grown up with". Then there's "teen music", which is usually, initially at least, listened to as a protest against parents. Later you realize that this protest was not so much the result of the free workings of the teenage imagination as of the need for the emerging radio/recording industry to create new markets. As your "musical taste" then developed you came to understand that it was to be considered a private, personal thing which identifies you and which, in a sense, you own — much as you own clothes for instance.

The main thing that distinguishes teen music from the songs your parents may have sung with you (or that you made up) is that it was not singable. Not in the sense of people getting together for the purpose of singing. It was disco music and dance music and it talked about you and your private affair with your boyfriend/girlfriend. You "moved along with it" and lost yourself in it. This sense of losing yourself became more accentuated as high-powered stereo systems developed and commercial music became more "complex". You smoked dope and listened under headphones (even to the words).

Most people in my generation still listen to teen music of one kind or another. Not so much through any fault of their own as of the inability of our culture to generate an adult form of expression that would put music in its rightful place as a thing that is shared among equals and produced socially. As something people do rather than consume. When I was a teenager I tried to get out of the contradiction by joining the snobs who listened to classical music. This gave me a nice sense of superiority but it was still a matter of sitting down and grooving to music that somebody had imported on a disc. It was even more private. It removed me even further from my contemporaries or the means of making music. And it was only possible, as I had to recognize, because there was already some tradition in our family of listening to classical music.

The other tradition we had was folk music and it was much stronger than the classical one. My father played the guitar and we sang the old songs. Most of them were German songs and the very fact of our being "ethnic" (immigrants) had a great deal to do with the ability of the folksongs to survive, even

as we kids became teenagers and should have been listening to Paul Anka. Ethnic cultures, it seems, are more resilient than the dominant ones when it comes to resisting the onslaught of commercialism. This has to do with language, religion, etc. It's one of the reasons music and culture in Quebec, for instance, can take on a political dimension that is entirely lacking in English-speaking Canada. Folk traditions survive where the monoculture hasn't yet penetrated the ghetto or where they can be used as a tool against the invading forces.

traditions and, when we do find them, disenfranchise them instantly. In doing so we forfeit the unique strength which an oral cultural form provides: the fact that it resides in human sounds, gestures, memory — in the language of human interactions rather than in mechanically reproduced and economically manipulative objects. We forfeit the ability of songs, for example, to link members of a family together.

When my sister started singing traditional B.C. folksongs

lumber down the Ottawa River at the turn of the century. There's the lovely song of the homesick trapper up in the Lardeau country (which the Duncan Dam has now flooded) that Stan Triggs collected from a fellow trapper there, and there's the famous *Blackfly Song* that Wade Hemsworth composed in the 1940's while surveying for hydroelectric projects in the James Bay area. The two sides of the record divide, roughly, into songs from the eastern and western halves of Canada; a lot of the credit for the B.C. songs goes to Phil

encourage passive listening. In this regard I think it will succeed. It's the kind of record one wants to see in all elementary schools and in all homes that have children who (until their teens at least) are liable to start singing on occasion (for no apparent reason) and will require a tradition to draw upon and channel the energy.

I can't help ending this by talking about one song on this album: a Quebec song called *La Famille Latour*. It's the kind of expanding song where, with each repetition of the chorus, a new member of the family, the



Rika Ruebsaat and Jon Bartlett with school children

So here I am reviewing my sister's record. Because music begins at home. It's not so much a review, of course, as an appreciation. My point is that music is an intimate art. Sound caressing the eardrums is like a mother's touch, a primary sensation that leaves its imprint long before the ability to speak or think about it develops. That's why its politics and sociology are so often hard to understand.

We are told that music is "subjective", that it can't be agreed upon and shouldn't be argued about. This question of subjectivity is then extended into an argument for the "personal": music has nothing to do with the power of the state or the corporations, for example, because it remains in "the realm of the personal." Sort of like women doing housework. Or ethnics singing songs in their ghetto. Yet the act of singing is one of the most profoundly public acts one can think of and its intent is deeply intrapersonal. Who is doing it?

In Canada, we (English-speaking) aren't used to thinking of ourselves as having a folk tradition. Of having songs that we can sing that are part of a common heritage and that often speak against corporate monoculture. We belittle such

about miners and trappers and the guys who built the railways I smiled, but I listened. Maybe because it *was* in the family. I couldn't believe some of the twisting lyrics and terrible rhymes. The plain hokiness and hopelessness. On the other hand the songs talked about places I'd been and I could remember them and hum them when I went back to these places. They became part of the landscape quickly. So I started

Thomas, inveterate collector, who's gone up and down this province for years getting down the songs, and from whose archives Jon and Rika draw liberally.

It's not a perfect product, of course. For reasons I'm not clear on, a number of songs which I would consider the best of their repertoire have been left out (I mean best not in terms of historical accuracy and pertinency of content but in

Latour family, is introduced and named and becomes a part of the song. It reminds me of a German song we used to sing where, with each verse, a new member of the family entered and the point was to imitate a separate instrument of the symphony orchestra. It created hilarious effects because, with six people singing, and trying to render stylized and melodically treated accounts of the respective instruments with

**"Teen music...the inability of our culture...
to put music in its rightful place as
a thing that is to be shared among equals
and produced socially."**

learning them simply out of habit. It's a question, at one point, of geography, not taste.

So now the record is here and a lot of the songs are on it. The one about the hardrock miner who met his love (so to speak) in a quartz mine in Flin Flon; the one about the Fraser River gold diggers who "labour hard" as does their "bard"; the songs about moving west into Saskatchewan in the eighties and about driving

terms of the *musicality* at which this content arrives, and which will determine its survival) — songs such as the haunting *Song of the Sockeye* about fishing on the B.C. coast and the *I'm Alone Song* about rum-running on the east coast. I'd quibble with the technical quality — the voices are badly miked in places and generally the mix is not great.

But the purpose of the record is to encourage singing and the learning of the songs and not to

human voices, the result became a kind of extended parody of the mechanized pomp and circumstance of symphony performance. And since, let's face it, the classical symphony orchestra is merely the first "technology" by which music was gradually removed from people and turned to other purposes, I see that song now as our small family way of commenting and reclaiming music for the vocal chords.

Folk music revival playing politics

by Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat.

Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat have been integrally involved with the B.C. folk scene for the past decade. With an interest in reviving the popular folk music of Canada's working people, they have become well acquainted with the politics of the folk music industry. In this, the first of four articles examining folk music in Canada, John and Rika provide some historical background to the current folk music revival.

Since the mid-1970's there has been a revival of interest in folk music in Canada. In B.C. this has been evidenced by the growth of the Vancouver Folk Festival and the numerous "folk acts" appearing at, for example, the Vancouver East Cultural Centre and the Soft Rock cafe. Many readers of *Leftwords* will have heard the music of such groups as Sukay and Barde and such performers as Stan Rogers and Ken Bloom.

do they cover *la Releve*, the revival in Quebec, an almost totally different phenomenon from that of English Canada.

The Canadian folk revival - a history

The Canadian folk revival sprang from that which occurred in the U.S. and so it is to that which we must first turn. The American revival is taken to have started with the popular acceptance of the Almanac Singers (a group founded in New York in the '40's which included Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie), though its immediate roots go back to the late '30's with the music of Leadbelly and Woody Guthrie. The topical and political repertoires of these singers gave the revival a pronounced leftist complexion which it retained.

A seminal event in the history of the American folk revival was a dispute between the American Federation of Musicians (AFM) and the American recording industry.

Russian friendship was encouraged and popular front politics, with its anti-fascism, opposition to racial prejudice and hope for a new world order, was part of a political climate conducive to the popularization of this "music of the people".

When the McCarthy era began in the early '50's, many of the more political folk such as Pete Seeger were blacklisted.

Those were the years of Burl Ives and Richard Dyer-Bennett, singers with primarily American traditional repertoires. Then in the late '50's and early '60's with the change in political climate, politics again became one of the strongest ingredients in the folk revival.

Songwriters such as Tom Paxton and Bob Dylan wrote what became known as "protest" songs. These songs became the voice of a new generation of Americans reacting against the passivity of the Eisenhower years. Coffeehouses sprang up all over the country where young, middle class Americans sang and listened to such songs as *Blowin' in the Wind*. "Ban the Bomb" marches and civil rights demonstrations rang to the strains of "We Shall Overcome."

But the resurgence of politics in the folk revival did not eclipse the traditional content: people such as Joan Baez and Pete Seeger sang a large number of traditional songs which were learned and sung across the country. By the mid-'60's, the folk revival had already had a strong impact on commercial music: Peter, Paul and Mary, the New Christy Minstrels and the Kingston Trio could be heard on the AM radio.

The folk revival in Canada was essentially the American revival expanded north. In the '30's and '40's Canadians had been hearing primarily American popular music on radio and records.

The 1942 AFM recording ban similarly introduced American folk music to Canadians since the networks and recording companies were American monopolies. Through the CBC came into existence in the early '30's its programs were not received in many communities because of the

expanse and geography of the country. In the B.C. interior it was easier to pick up KSL Salt Lake City than to get the CBC Vancouver, and so Canadians heard Burl Ives and Josh White. At a time when American folk music was being disseminated across the continent, Canadians never heard their own folk songs.

From its earliest beginnings, the folk revival in Canada was the American folk revival. This did not change. In the '50's middle class Canadians listened to Burl Ives and Richard Dyer-Bennett and by the late '50's and early '60's, Canadians were singing *Blowin' in the Wind* and Tom Paxton songs in coffeehouses across the country. Canada also had its "Ban the Bomb" marches and by the mid-'60's we were also listening to Peter, Paul and Mary on the radio.

There were some attempts to introduce Canadian songs into the revival in this country. Edith Fowke, host of a CBC folk song radio show in the '50's, began to receive requests for Canadian material but she

found very little on record. She found, too, that there had been no English Canadian collections made west of the maritimes. This scarcity prompted her to begin collecting songs in her home province of Ontario and publishing them. Some of these songs found their way onto record, either as field recordings or as interpreted by Alan Mills. But despite these attempts, Canadian folk music did not become a prominent part of the revival in this country.

The '60's saw the beginnings of careers of quite a number of Canadian folk performers. Singers such as Gordon Lightfoot and Ian and Sylvia became almost as well known as their American counterparts. But they became famous only after they had "made it" in the States. They recorded on American record labels and the music they played was either their own or American traditional music since their primary market was the U.S. The



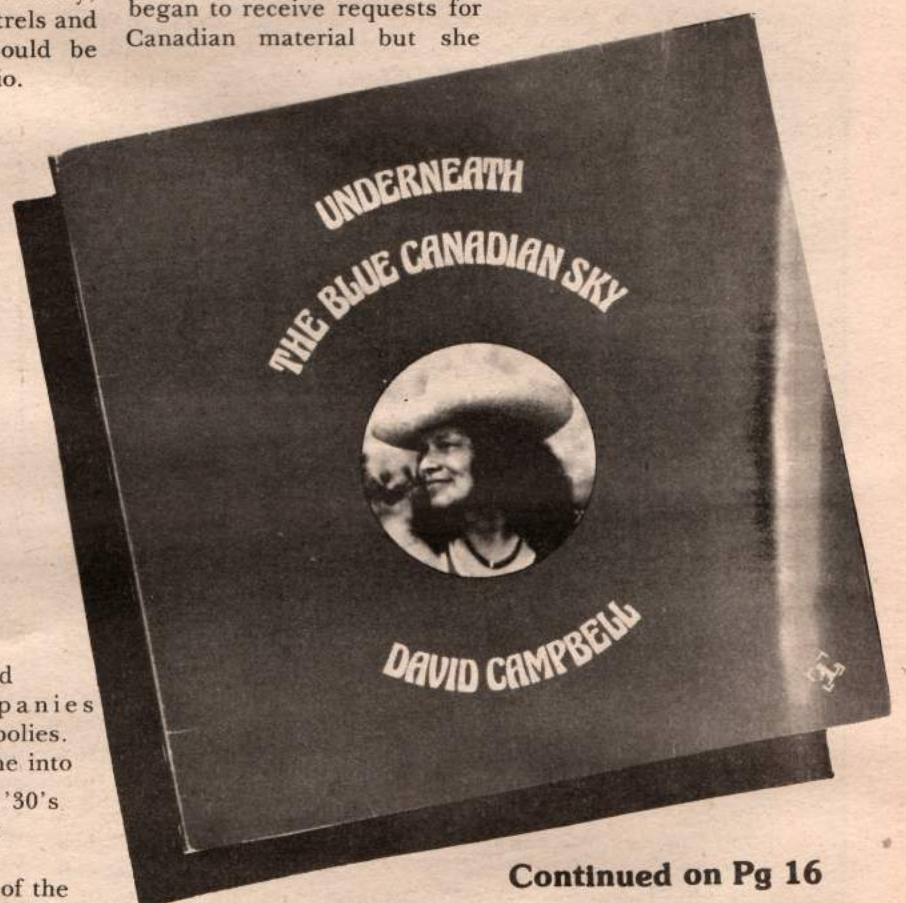
This growth has not been limited to B.C. but is part of a Canada-wide phenomenon. The purpose of this series of articles is to examine the folk revival in Canada. We shall examine in turn the history of the revival, the performers and their music, and where the music is heard at folk festivals and folk clubs.

Our observations are based on our experience as working musicians over the past ten years, and as editors and publishers of *Canada Folk Bulletin*, a national folk magazine (published from 1978 to 1980). We set out to write these articles in order to sort out our own thoughts on the revival, to open discussion on the tentative conclusions reached here, and to provide an historical survey in an area which has hitherto lacked substantive analysis.

It should be noted that the articles are concerned with the revival proper, and not with folk music found in its traditional and historical context. Neither

The AFM was concerned about the effects of jukeboxes and records on the livelihood of its musicians. Composers registered with the American Society for Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) were not getting paid sufficient royalties from radio stations, record and jukebox companies. In 1942, J.C. Petrillo, president of the AFM, announced a ban on all recording. Studios closed down for two years.

As a result, record companies and radio networks had to turn to material that had been recorded before the ban and that didn't fall under ASCAP's jurisdiction. Black music from "race" labels as well as traditional American folk music in the public domain began to be played on the radio and issued on record. For many people it was the first time they had ever heard folk songs or the music of the black minority. The dissemination of this music came almost at the same time as America's entry into the Second World War. American-



Continued on Pg 16

"Branch plant" music

Continued from pg 15

American music industry in Canada did not allow for the dissemination of Canadian traditional music which could have provided the impetus for a genuine *Canadian* folk revival.

Thus the "Canadian" music industry, as other "Canadian" industries, was, and is, no more than a "branch plant" of the U.S. music industry. But how is it that folk music in Mexico thrives when that country too is an economic colony of the U.S.? Mexico has its own language and - more important - its own culture which evolved long before it became economically dominated by the U.S. This was never the case in English Canada as a whole. Canada was culturally, politically and economically a British colony. Then it became an economic and eventually a cultural colony of the U.S. At no time in its history was it not dominated by another country: Canada therefore never had the opportunity to evolve and coalesce its own "national" culture. Canadians were always led to believe that what was Canadian was second-rate. Is it any wonder, then, that "folkies" in this country don't sing Canadian songs?

By the late '60's most of the folk coffeehouses in this country were dead and the folk revival seemed to have come to an end. Any singing that happened took place in people's living rooms, although a few festivals and clubs here and

there managed to survive the lull. But by the mid-'70's things began to pick up again. "First Annual" festivals such as those in Winnipeg and Sudbury were established and coffeehouses and folk clubs again sprang up. They were not so numerous as in the '60's, but they could be found across the country in a large number of communities. Unlike those of the '60's, most of them were not set up and frequented by people in their teens and early twenties. They were, by and large, organized and attended by precisely those people who had been involved in folk music in the '60's - people who were by this time between 25 and 40 years old.

This trend has continued: the current folk revival still fails to attract youth. Most of the organizers and audiences at folk festivals today are between the ages of 30 and 45. It is extremely rare to meet a teenager who is interested in folk music, and anyone over the age of 50 at a festival is usually a parent who has been coaxed to come.

Why is this? Why are "folkies" in this country today primarily the same generation of people who were involved in folk music during the '60's?

The turn of the decade from the '50's to the '60's marked the birth of a new generation. Brought up under the political stagnation of the McCarthy and Eisenhower years, this new generation reacted against and began questioning the status quo. It became politically active

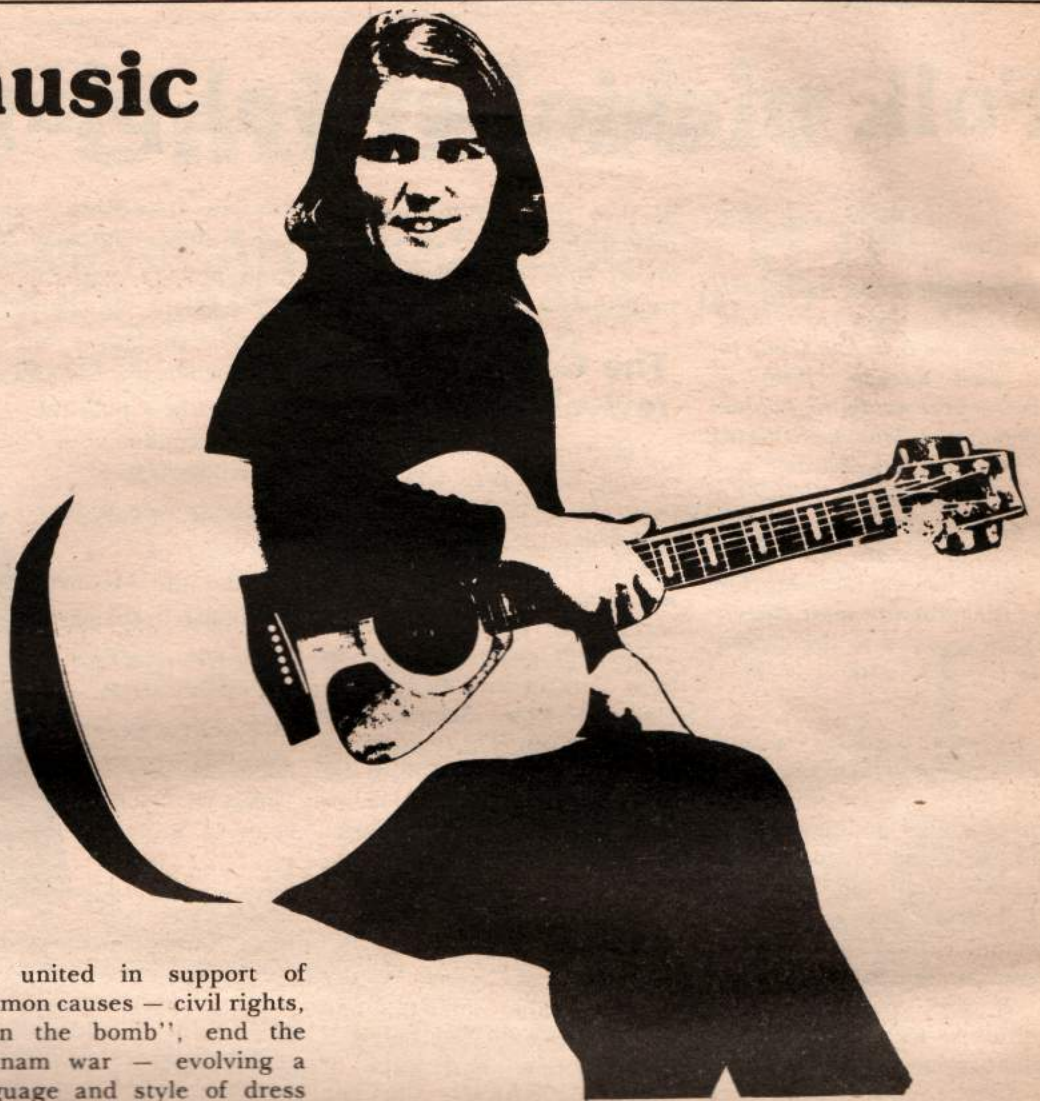
and united in support of common causes - civil rights, "ban the bomb", end the Vietnam war - evolving a language and style of dress which set it apart from "mainstream" values. This generation provided the perfect base for a music culture. Songs from the black chain gangs were incorporated into this culture, and songwriters emerged whose songs were picked up and sung at rallies and coffeehouses. People had a sense of purpose and of belonging to a community within which the oral transmission of songs such as *Blowin' in the Wind* and *Five Hundred Miles* took place in

much the same way that songs are transmitted in traditional cultures.

With the experience of the '60's behind them, is it any wonder that the present day "folkies" should want to recreate that experience? Folk music has united them and given them strength. In setting up coffeehouses and festivals where folk music could take place, perhaps some of that strength and unity could be recaptured. But the '70's and

'80's are not the '60's. The social and political climate is totally different. The young generation today is not as politicized as that of the '60's and, as a result, folk music is not their language. It remains the language of a generation that is growing inexorably older.

The authors are music educators in folk music working with students and teachers throughout Western Canada.



Happenings

Jan. 16-18 **No Nukes — Anti-Nuclear Benefit**
Proceeds to the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility. 7:30 p.m. at the Ridge Theatre.

Jan. 18 **Women and Imperialism**
First of a series of six workshops. Sponsored by Women Against Imperialism and B.C. Federation of Labour. 7:30 p.m. at Britannia Community Centre, 1661 Napier St. For information call 253-5651.

Jan. 23-25 **Socialism for The 80's.**
Speakers: Cy Gonick, John Saul, Phil Resnick, Norman Penner. Sponsored by B.C. Committee for Socialist Studies. At the U.B.C. Law Building. For information call 228-4354.

Jan. 31 **Nicaragua/El Salvador Public Meeting**
Speaker: Rev. J. Hilborn. Film **Women in Arms**. Sponsored by the Nicaragua/El Salvador Support Committee. 7:30 p.m. at Carnegie Centre, Main and Hastings.

Jan. 31 **International Association of Filipino People**
Fundraising party, good music and Filipino food. 8 p.m. at 2445 East 28th Ave.

Feb. 6 **The Labour Movement in the Philippines**
Speaker: McGuade of GATT-FLY.

Sponsored by International Association of Filipino People. For information call 325-0408 or 876-6564.

Feb. 6 **Introduction to Marx's 'Capital'**
First session of a ten week reading course. Organized by Chris De Bressen. For information call 525-8136.

Feb. 7 **10 Days for World Development — Public Meeting**
Speaker: Francisca Campbell, Nicaragua Institute of Agrarian Reform. Music: Victor Jara Folklore Group. Sponsored by Canadian Farmworkers' Union. 7:00 p.m. at Fisherman's Hall.

Feb. 14-15 **Anti-Nuclear Information Weekend**
SATURDAY 8 p.m.: Holly Near with pianist Adrienne Torf. John Oliver High School, 530 East 41st Ave. SUNDAY 10-4:30: Films, speakers and workshops at Britannia Community Centre, 1661 Napier St.

Men's anti-sexist support, study and action groups are being formed in the Vancouver area. For information contact George at 738-1430 or Michael at 876-0600.

The Committee for a March on Ottawa is circulating a petition opposing Trudeau's constitutional proposals. For information call 255-3931.